

Bug Races

Modified activity from Life Lab
For ages 3+ (the more the merrier)

Search for bugs, set up a race and watch them go!

This is an easy, fun and engaging activity for the great outdoors. Take kids outside and look for bugs that can race against each other. The best places to find bugs are under rocks and pots, or in cool, moist and shady places. Pill bugs (roly-poly) and sow bugs (wood lice) are the best. However, once caterpillar season is upon us, they are even better. The same goes for black ground beetles. Stay away from spiders and flying insects.

Once you've captured your bug, put it in a plastic cup or jar and cover the opening with heavy paper or cardboard. Collect more bugs for the competition.

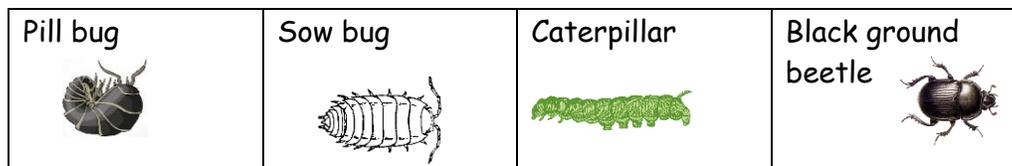
Then, decide where the race is to take place. A shady place on concrete works best. With chalk or string, draw a circle about 3 feet in diameter.

Once you have enough bugs and a racecourse, it's time for the race. **CAREFULLY**, flip over the container onto your hand, so the paper is on the bottom and then place the paper, with cup on top, on the ground in the **center of the circle**. **SLOWLY** slide the piece of paper out from underneath the cup, being careful not to hurt the bug's legs. Leave the bug under the cup until all bugs have been flipped over.

Make some predictions about which type of bug will reach the finish line, or at least move quickest and hypothesize why.

Then on the count of three, lift all the cups, step out of the way, and watch them go. Cheer! Repeat. Take pictures. Share pictures. Repeat.

WHEN DONE RACING, RETURN BUGS TO THE PLACE YOU FOUND THEM.



Here's a video from Life Lab

<https://www.lifelab.org/2020/03/bug-races/?hilite=%27bug%27%2C%27races%27>