

# Buggo!

Location: RiverWalk Learning Station 4  
Program Levels: Daisy, Brownie

**Objective:** Girls will learn about different kinds of bugs by playing a trivia and matching game.

## Materials Provided

- Buggo! Game boards
- Game tokens
- Buggo! Clue Cards



## Activity Steps

1. Pass out one Buggo! Game board and 15 game tokens to each girl. Explain that Buggo! is played like bingo, but with one twist. Instead of calling out a bug's name, you will give the girls clues to a bug's identity instead.
2. Draw a Buggo! clue card out of the envelope. As you read the identity clues, the girls should try to figure out which bug on their game board you are talking about and raise their hand to identify the bug.
3. Once the bug has been identified, show the girls the picture of the bug on the Buggo! Clue card (this is only necessary for girls with limited reading skills who need to see the picture to identify the bug on their board).
4. Have each girl place a game token over the identified bug on her Buggo! game board. Continue play until someone gets Buggo! by completing an entire row or column. If you did not read all the clue cards you can play a second game.
5. Using the discussion questions as a starting point, talk to the girls about the roles bugs play in an ecosystem and what they can tell us about the land around us.

## Discussion Questions

- **Are all of the bugs in the game insects?** No. The word “bugs” is a term used to talk about a lot of different creepy-crawly arthropods (invertebrates with segmented bodies and jointed legs), including insects, arachnids (spiders), and others such as centipedes and millipedes.
- **Why are bugs important/necessary?** Bugs are food for bigger animals like fish and birds. They also help plants to grow by pollinating them. Many plants cannot grow without bugs to help.
- **If an area has lots of different types of bugs, what can that tell you about other plants and animals?** An area with a lot of bugs is probably healthy and has a lot of different plants and animals. If there are no bugs, there probably are not very many fish or birds, because they need the bugs for food.
- **There are some bugs you don't want near your house, like wasps. But are there any you would want close by?** Yes! Some bugs eat the ones you do not want around. For example, ladybugs eat aphids, which are bugs that eat holes in plants. If you have ladybugs around, you don't have to spray chemicals to get rid of the aphids. Spiders eat flies and mosquitoes that can carry diseases. Other bugs like butterflies pollinate flowers to make your garden pretty.
- **Bugs are good for lots of reasons, but they can also be dangerous for people. What bugs are dangerous and why?** Ticks and mosquitoes can be very dangerous because they can carry diseases like Lyme disease. If you get bitten by a bug and you feel sick or get a rash, you should always go see a doctor. Bees and wasps can also be dangerous if you are allergic to them. A bee sting is not comfortable for anyone, but if you are allergic it can cause your throat to swell up so you cannot breath. You should always be careful around these bugs.

### Extensions

#### On the Trail

Look around you for bugs. Do you see any of the bugs on your Buggo! game board? Try to make Buggo! by placing tokens on the board for bugs you see. Make sure to be careful of bugs that bite or sting.

#### Beyond the Trail

Visit the Insect Zoo at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. You can watch a tarantula feeding, crawl through a model termite mound, see scientists working with insects, and more! Find exhibit information online at <http://www.mnh.si.edu/education/exhibitions/insectzoo/index.html>