

## 8. Invertebrates

Invertebrates (in VER tuh brates) are animals that do not have a skeleton. Insects, spiders, snails, and worms are all invertebrates. Sometimes it's easier to just call them "small creatures."

### Four Ways To Find Invertebrates

(1) Watch flower gardens for butterflies and bees. Butterflies may fly away if they see you. Use the stealth skills you have learned—freeze when you see a butterfly so you don't scare it away.

(2) If you like slugs and worms, dampen a place on the ground and place a piece of plywood there. Check at least once a day, at different times of day, to see what has crawled under the cover.

(3) Make a sugar trap for moths. (Moths mostly come out after dark, so moth traps have to be used at night.)

*Recipe for a sugar trap for moths:*

8 oz. (225g) jar of molasses

2 lbs. (500g) dark brown sugar

16 oz. (250ml) cola drink

1 drop of rum (some moths like rum)

Heat the cola over medium heat till it simmers, then simmer 5 minutes. Stir in brown sugar, dissolve completely. Stir in molasses, dissolve completely. Simmer

for two more minutes. Let cool, and keep in a closed jar until sunset. Add a drop of rum just before using. Paint mixture on tree trunks, posts, etc., just after sunset. For the next two hours, shine a flashlight every so often to see what moths have gathered on the mix.

(4) Make a pitfall trap for insects and other mini-beasts. Bury a plastic cup in the ground, leave it overnight, check it the next morning.



*How to make the pitfall trap:* Bury a plastic cup in the ground. It is easier to check the trap if you nest a second cup inside the first.

Be sure to empty the trap daily!

## Invertebrates To Look For: Butterflies



Western Tiger Swallowtail butterfly. This butterfly is pale yellow and black.



A Common Buckeye butterfly resting on the ground. This butterfly is brown with orange and black spots.

## Invertebrates To Look For: Other Insects



A Convergent Lady Beetle on a flower.



A Sweat Bee pollinating a California Poppy.

## Invertebrates To Look For: Worms



Segmented worms, or Annelids, have many smaller segments. The largest segmented worm in the world can grow up to ten feet long, but most of them are fairly small.

Earthworms, like the ones in our compost piles, are the most familiar kind of segmented worms.



## Invertebrates To Look For: Snails and Slugs



A bright yellow California Banana Slug on a log.



A Helix Snail on a flower stalk.

## Invertebrates To Look For: Spiders



Spiderweb found on our campus.