

# BUG FEATS OF MONTANA

*Written by: Deborah Richie Oberbillig*

\*optional requirement for Brownie Bugs badge

## Activity 1: Draw a bug poster

- Choose a specific bug from the book to make a poster about. No two girls should choose the same bug. Draw your bug on the poster and label its parts. Using the book and other resources, answer the following questions:
  - Where does your bug live?
  - How long does your bug live?
  - What does your bug eat?
  - When can you find your bug?
  - What is good about this bug?
  - What is not so good about this bug?
  - Who are this bug's enemies?



## Activity 2: Try a bug craft

- Make a paper-plate spider. Decorate the plate with markers or paint, draw eyes, and attach eight pipe cleaners to make legs. Give your spider a fun name and invent one interesting “fact” about it. Share it with your troop!

## Activity 3: See bugs in action

- With your troop, go outside and look for three different bugs! Identify the bugs and try to find out what they are doing and why.

## Activity 4: Explore bug homes

- Draw a cocoon. Some bugs, like caterpillars, sleep in a cocoon. Inside, they transform into a moth or butterfly. Find out what else goes on in there, then draw what you think the inside looks like!

## Activity 5: Take a bug field trip

- Visit a local naturalist center or garden with a bug collection. Spend time learning about different bugs. You may even get to hold bugs if the center allows it!
  - If there isn't a nearby center or garden, you can do one of the following:
    - Visit a farm and talk to the farmer why bugs are useful to his/her crops. Bring a magnifying glass to look for bugs!
    - Visit a beekeeper and learn about how the bees make their honey. Ask to taste some fresh honey!
    - Go for a hike and see how many different kinds of bugs you can find along the way. Bring a magnifying glass! Make sure to look under rocks, up in trees, and on the undersides of leaves!

# BIRD FEATS OF MONTANA:

*INCLUDING YELLOWSTONE AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARKS*

\*optional requirement for Junior Animal Habitats badge

*Bird Feats of Montana: Including Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks*

*Written by: Deborah Richie Oberbillig*

## **Activity 1: Find out about wild animals**

- List wild birds near your home, meeting place, or school.
  - After exploring the book, make a list of the species you think would be found in your area. Survey the area with an adult and other Girl Scouts to see if you can find any of those species. From your list, pick three species and learn more about each one using the book. Why do they live here? What do they eat? Pick three interesting facts about each species to share with your troop.

## **Activity 2: Investigate an animal habitat**

*(You can do one or all of the options below!)*

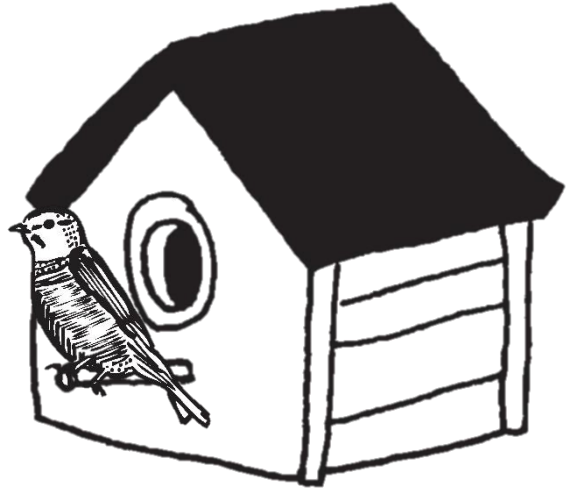
- **Option 1:** Visit a zoo, natural history center, or animal sanctuary.
  - When there, choose a particular habitat and answer these questions for each of three bird species that live in that habitat:
    - What kind of food is found in this habitat?
    - Where do the birds build their nests? Ground, trees, shrubs?
    - Does the species have any special physical features that help it to live and acquire food in this habitat?
    - Does the species live in this habitat year-round?
- **Option 2:** Make a habitat collage.
  - Go through the book and group the birds by habitat. Then group them by how they look, how they acquire food, or how they build their nests. Did your groups change? Discuss the groupings with your fellow Girl Scouts—and make up ways to group animals.



### Activity 3: Create a bird house

*(Choose one or both options!)*

- **Option 1:** Make a bird house to hang in your yard!
  - Use wood to build your house, then paint it any colors you choose!
- **Option 2:** Make a bird nest!
  - Think about the bird species that live in your area, then collect the appropriate natural materials to build a nest. Share your nest with others and explain how it works and who it would make a good home for.



### Activity 4: Explore endangered habitats

- According to the book, the whooping crane is the rarest bird in Montana. It is actually on Montana's Endangered Species List! There is very little information in the book about this bird, so do some research and learn about what makes it endangered. Then answer these questions:
  - What sort of habitat does it live in?
  - What is happening to the species in Montana?
  - What are people doing to help?

### Activity 5: Help protect animal habitats

- Help clean up a bird habitat. With your Girl Scout sisters, ask an expert to recommend an area that needs cleaning—the woods, a stream, or a park—and get permission to spend a few hours making it nicer for our bird friend

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## ACTIVITY 1: FIND OUT ABOUT WILD ANIMALS

<b>Pick Three Species:</b>	<b>Why do they live here?</b>	<b>What do they eat?</b>	<b>Three interesting facts:</b>
Species 1:			
Species 2:			
Species 3:			

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## ACTIVITY 2: INVESTIGATE AN ANIMAL HABITAT

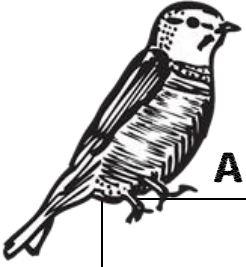
*Option 1: Visit a zoo, natural history center, or animal sanctuary*



What habitat did you choose?	
What kind of food is found in this habitat?	
Where do the birds build their nests? Ground, trees, shrubs?	
Does the species have any special physical features that help it to live and acquire food in this habitat?	
Does the species live in this habitat year round?	

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## ACTIVITY 4: EXPLORE ENDANGERED HABITATS

What sort of habitat does the Whooping Crane live in?

What is happening to Whooping Cranes in Montana?

What are people doing to help?