

## Animal and Bug Hunt/Walk

We depend on animals and bugs, and they depend on us. Some critters are called “**pollinators**” and they are vital to our food supply and natural environment. These little critters are responsible for transporting pollen and helping plants to reproduce.

Our five senses – sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch – are the way we sense the world. But many animals have senses with very different abilities from ours, so they perceive the world differently than we do. You could say that we live in different worlds.

Bees can **see** colors that people can’t, a type of light called ultraviolet. Many flowers have patterns on them that bees can see but we can’t.

Bats can **hear** sounds that are too high for people to hear; they find their way around in the dark by making these high-pitched sounds and listening to the echoes. Elephants can hear sounds that are too low for people to hear; they use these sounds to communicate over long distances.

If you have a dog, you’ve probably noticed that it goes around **sniffing** things. Dogs have an amazing sense of smell that’s much better than ours. A dog could smell a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water.

**For this science activity**, we are going to use our senses of sight, smell, sound, and possibly touch. Find a spot outside where you can sit (or stand) for some time. Or, you might decide to take a short walk.

Scientists make observations so today you are going to work on your observation skills. Pay attention to:

- What animals and/or bugs you **see**. Where do you see them? Try to figure out what they eat, where they get their water, and where they live.
- What animals and/or bugs you **hear**. Do they sound close by or far away?
- Taking a closer look: if you have the ability to safely pick up a handful of dirt, notice what you **see** and **hear**. Again, try to figure out what they eat, where they get their water, and where they live.