

# Nature Detective



**This week we are going to look for ladybirds.**

Prepared by Michelle Bradley for Family Learning

There are many different types of Ladybirds so when you find one make sure and bring your phone to take a photo and your note book to make a note of your observations-see 1 to 5 and then make a quick sketch of the bug. **DO NOT MOVE** the ladybird as they are delicate and valuable creatures.

1. Where did you find the ladybird?
  2. If it was on a plant what type of plant was it on?
  3. What was it doing?
  4. Was there more than 1 ladybird ?
  5. How many spots did your Ladybird have.
- The bright colours of ladybirds look pretty to us but they are to warn predators that they do not taste good.
  - They exude a toxic yellow substance from their leg joints when attacked.
  - Ladybirds can feed on up to 5,000 aphids in a year.
  - This makes gardeners and farmers happy, as they are a natural pest controller of plants and crops.

The Lifecycle of a ladybird=Egg, Larva, Pupa & Adult  
Ladybirds complete their lifecycle within one year

See what you can remember and answer the following questions then either colour in attached image or do your own drawing, collage or digital image.

• March to April: Adult ladybirds are active and seeking food

- May- ladybirds mate
- June to July- Females lay their eggs that hatch as larva.
- July-The larva feeds on aphids and form as Pupae.
- August-New adults emerge from the Pupae
- September- Adults are feeding
- October to February: Adult ladybirds hibernate (overwintering)



