

BOISE WATERSHED

Weekly Challenge (Week 4)

Welcome to the WaterShed Weekly Challenge. Every week during the summer the Boise WaterShed will release one challenge for people at home to complete. These challenges will focus on a STEM topic and each completed challenge will give you one raffle ticket for a chance to win a family membership to the Discovery Center of Idaho. The raffle will take place at the end of the summer! The more challenges you complete, the better your chances of winning are. Every participant in this program through the spring and summer will receive a packet of goodies from the Boise WaterShed. You can complete these challenges at any point throughout the summer. See below for how to submit a completed challenge. We would love to share your experiences with these challenges. If you take any pictures or videos of completing or working on these challenges, send them to us and we will feature them every Friday on a special Facebook shout-out message. You can also tag us on Facebook, @BoiseWS.

WEEK 4: BUGS AND MACROS

This week, we are going to challenge you to observe some bugs around where you live. Bugs are awesome and they do so many awesome things for us. They break down materials, protect us from pests, clean our rivers and streams, act as a food source for many animals, and more. In order to show our appreciation for bugs, we want you to find and identify a bug for this challenge. You do not have to catch a bug in order to complete this challenge, but we will provide some resources on how to safely catch bugs.

SAFETY

Because some bugs sting and bite, we want to make sure that we are all being very safe while observing bugs. Check with the adults in your life to see if you are allergic to certain stings, and if so, make sure that you avoid those types of bugs for this challenge. We recommend simply observing the bug from a distance, but if you would like to catch a bug, follow some of these rules:

- Use a butterfly net to trap the bug and then guide the bug into a small clear container.
- Make sure that your container has a lid that has holes that allow oxygen into the container.
- Do NOT catch or touch a bug with your hands. Even if you know the bug won't sting, it can be dangerous for the bug if we are moving it around with our hands.
- Avoid bugs that sting and /or bite. If you are not sure, ask an adult or avoid the bug.

CHALLENGE

Find a bug to observe and/or catch and then answer the following questions about the bug. You can print out the questions and bring them with you or fill them out later. A really good way to complete this challenge is to take a picture of the bug so that you do not forget what it looks like or what it is doing. If you are interested in learning more about the bugs that live in our rivers, check out our WaterShed Kids video coming later this week!

QUESTIONS:

How big is the bug? (Try to compare the bug to something that you know the size of, a coin is a good comparison. You can also measure the bug by carefully using a ruler.)

What color is the bug?

How many legs (if any) does the bug have?

How does the bug move (crawl, swim, fly, squirm, or other)?

If you know the name of the bug, what is it? If you don't, what would you name this bug?

What does it look like this bug eats? Why do you think so?

BONUS: Use an identification chart or website to identify the bug you are observing: