



Family Science Activities



Exploring the World of Animals

A trip to the zoo is fun and educational, but there are also plenty of opportunities closer to home to explore and observe animals together.

Animal Detective

Investigate the animals living in your neighborhood.

Talk with your child about what kinds of animals live around you. Then take a walk around the block or in a nearby park, observing birds, squirrels, and other creatures. Have your child also look for evidence of animals who have been busy at work, building homes (like a nest on a branch) or gathering food (nuts in a tree hollow).

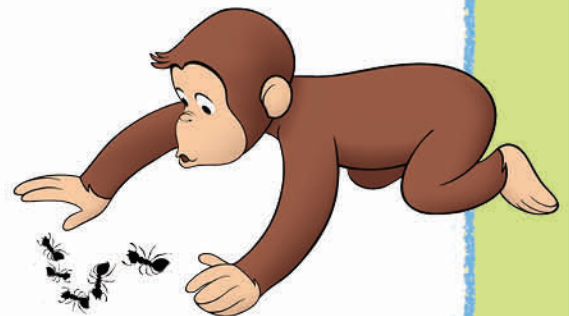
Creepy Crawler Hunt

Take a close look at insects and have your child observe and draw them.

Create a chart called "Insect Investigator," with three columns:

1. **What it looks like** (examples: wings or no wings, color, antennae, legs, size, etc.)
2. **What it acts like** (examples: flies, crawls, hops, runs, makes noise or is quiet, etc.)
3. **Where I found it** (examples: under a rock, on a tree, in the grass, on a flower, etc.)

Go outside and search for insects, recording your child's observations in each column. When you get home, have your child draw each of the insects in its habitat. Use the chart as a reminder of what the insect looked and acted like.



Bird Watcher

Make a birdfeeder together—then sit back and enjoy the show!

Cover a bagel or donut with peanut butter. Then roll it in bird seed, loop a string through the center hole, and hang it from a tree or fire escape—choose a place where it will be easy for you to watch birds as they come to feed.

Ask your child: *What kinds of birds visit your feeder? What do you notice about them?*

If your child has fun bird watching, you may want to make a more permanent birdfeeder together out of a plastic bottle:

www.pbs.org/parents/curiousgeorge/activities/pc_plastic_bottle_birdfeeder.html



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Read and Find Out More About Animals

Who's Been Here? A Tale in Tracks

Fran Hodgkins, Down East Books, 2008

Three children and their dog, Willy, discover different tracks in the snow. You're invited to guess along with them what animals made the tracks.

I See a Kookaburra! Discovering Animal Habitats Around the World

Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, Houghton Mifflin, 2005

Explore six different animal habitats, from scorching deserts to steamy rainforests. Can you find the animals hiding in each habitat?

Animal Disguises

Belinda Weber, Kingfisher, 2004

Stunning photographs illustrate the amazing ways animals disguise themselves through camouflage. Can you tell whether that's a log floating down the river . . . or a sneaky crocodile?

Peterson First Guide to Insects of North America

Christopher Leahy, Houghton Mifflin, 1998

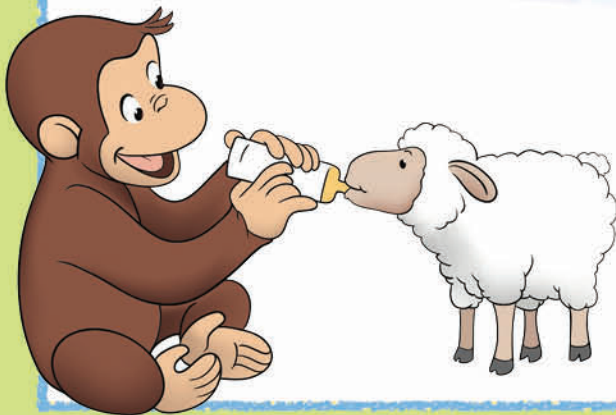
A guide to insects for the budding naturalist, illustrated with line drawings and photographs.



Click and Explore

Try the online animal games at pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/games:

- **Cows Don't Quack!** This matching game is full of crazy noises and mixed-up critters—cows that quack and dogs that chirp. Your job is to straighten them out!
- **ZOOmazing:** George meets different animals that can't find their way home in the zoo. Help George lead them home using a map.



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on **PBS KIDS**[®]!

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and check out curiousgeorge.com
for more online fun.