

# meet the insects

*You will need a parent or trusted adult to help you with this activity!*

A lot of birds, just like the Cuban Martin, depends on a steady diet of insects to survive. In this activity you will be introduced to some of the insects that are crawling, flying and even munching on leaves in your own backyard!

## Here's what you'll need:

- an old light colored bed sheet or towel will work
- a magnifying glass
- garden gloves (optional)
- camera
- sheet of paper and pencil

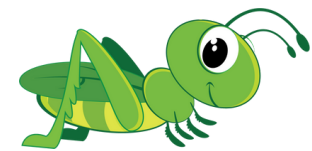
*Once you've got your sheet and magnifying glass, it's time to meet the insects!*

## Here's what you'll do:

1. Lay the sheet under a tree or plant and spread it out.
2. On your paper, write down the name of the tree.
3. Ask your parent or adult to shake the tree and the branches. They will have to give it a good vigorous shake!

*.....continued on the next page*

*You don't need to touch or hold the insects.*



4. Use the magnifying glass to take a closer look at whatever falls onto the sheet.
5. You can also take photos and upload them to an app or the internet to help you identify the insects.
6. Next write down the names of the insects you have identified. It's okay if you are not able to identify all. And record the amount of each insect on your paper.
7. Then, put the sheet under a different tree or plant and repeat steps 2-6.
8. When you're done, think about why one tree may have more or less insects than another. For example: did native plants have more insects than non-native plants? Were any of the plants treated for insects? Were there any insects that didn't fall unto the sheet and why?

*You don't need to touch or hold the insects.*

