

# Wacky Zacky's Bug Discovery: Create Your Insect Story - Illustration Activity

## Objective:

Students will create unique artwork based on various bug fun facts, showcasing their creative interpretations and deepening their understanding of insects.

## Pre-Activity: Reading and Exploration

Read "Wacky Zacky Bugs Out" by Tarana Peaches and Henrique C. Rampazzo. Highlight Zacky's discovery of fascinating facts about bugs during his research, inspiring curiosity and exploration in the students.

## Materials:

- Plain paper
- Coloring materials (crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.)
- Example images of insects and arachnids (for inspiration)
- Sample fun facts (see below)

## Instructions:

### 1. Choose a Fact:

Let each student pick a fun fact that captures their imagination the most. They can choose from below or research their own.

### Sample Fun Facts:

- *Not All Insects are Bugs:* While all bugs are insects, not all insects are bugs. This is because "bugs" refers to a specific order of insects known as Hemiptera, which includes species like stink bugs and shield bugs. Other insects, like bees and butterflies, don't belong to this order.
- *Stink Bugs Don't Actually Fart:* Despite their name, stink bugs don't release odors as a fart would. Instead, they have special glands that produce a smelly liquid to deter predators. This liquid is released from their abdomen, not as a gas, but as a liquid defense mechanism.
- *Ants Can Lift Objects 50 Times Their Weight:* Ants are incredibly strong and can carry objects that are 50 times their own body weight. This is like a human

lifting a car. They use this strength to carry food back to their nests and in constructing their homes.

- *Spiders are Not Insects, They are Arachnids*: Unlike insects, which have three body parts and six legs, spiders belong to the arachnid class and have two body parts and eight legs. This distinction is important for understanding the diversity in the small creatures around us.
- *Ladybugs Play Dead When Threatened*: Some species of ladybugs have a unique defense mechanism where they play dead when they sense danger. They can also secrete a fluid that tastes foul to predators, further ensuring their survival.

## **2. Creative Brainstorming:**

Motivate students to think creatively about how to depict their chosen fact in an illustration. They might draw a superhero ant showcasing its strength or a ladybug ingeniously evading danger.

## **3. Illustration Time:**

Provide time for the children to draw and color their interpretations, fostering creativity and individual expression.

## **4. Presentation:**

Allow each student to present their artwork, sharing their interpretations and insights with their peers.

## **Optional Follow-up Activities:**

### **A. Story Development:**

Encourage students to write a short story or description for their character or scene. This adds a narrative element, allowing them to become authors of their own insect stories.

### **B. Sharing Stories:**

Create an opportunity for students to share their stories with their peers, enhancing their storytelling skills and fostering a sense of community.