

## The Environmental Learning Center

# BUG FALL TRAP

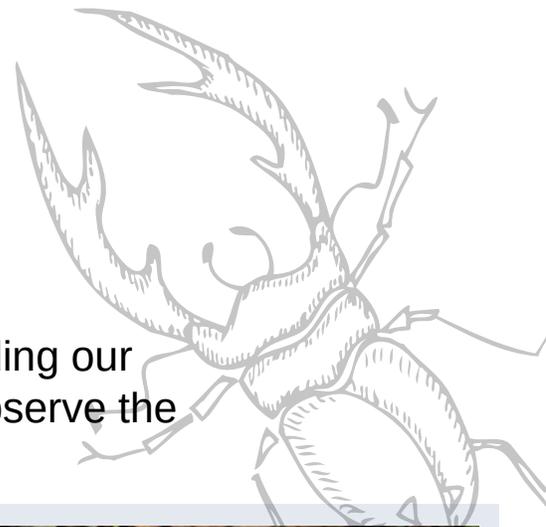
Insects and arthropods live all around us, often avoiding our notice. In this activity, build a fall trap to catch and observe the bugs living in the habitats beneath our feet.

### Materials Needed:

- Small container (provided)
- Critter viewer (provided)
- Pencil and notebook (provided)

### Instructions:

1. Select a location for your pitfall trap. Think about where you are most likely to find bugs. In a shady spot or a sunny location? By trees and shrubs or in grass? (Hint: You might want to set your trap in several locations and see if you find different critters.)
2. Dig a small hole the size of your container. Make sure the hole is deep enough that the top of the container is level with the ground.
3. Fill in the area around your container. You may want to add some camouflage like leaves and sticks around the sides so that your containers blends in with the environment.
4. Give it some time and then go check your trap. Remember to check your trap every 30-45 minutes so bugs are not trapped for too long.
5. Use your hand lens for a better look at any critters that you caught and sketch them on a piece of paper or in your notebook. If you would like, use your critter viewer to get an even better look. Remember to never touch any bugs with your hands unless you know they do not sting or bite.
6. Be sure to return and release any bugs your found to the area you found them in after you have finished your observations.



*Note: The pitfall trap that you are creating is very similar to the hunting style of the antlion. The antlion will dig a pit that an insect will fall into and not be able to escape!*