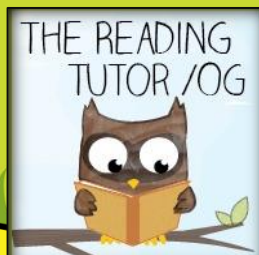
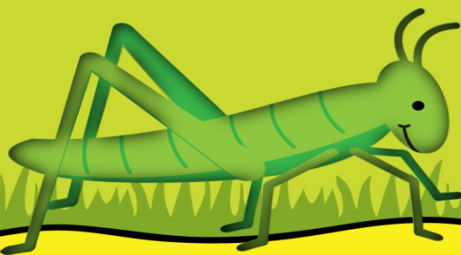


Backyard Critters



Read Around The Room Task Cards



Dear Educator,

Thank you for downloading this product. I'm excited to share this set of non-fiction skills and strategies task cards with you! These were designed in a "Read Around The Room" format to keep your students actively engaged while gaining important reading practice. You'll find a KWL chart for activating prior knowledge, a "Fact File" for building background , and 8 task cards to read and answer questions. I recommend laminating them, as well as the answer sheet to make them longer lasting. You may wish to pair students up to make this a more cooperative learning activity, or just keep them in a small group.

Use the writing activity or fact poster as an culminating activity.

This would make great independent research for students with an interest in researching backyard critters.

I strive to create quality products in my store. Please feel free to message me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this any other product. Be sure to follow [my store](#) to learn about new products, sales, and freebies. Thanks again!

-Emily Gibbons, [The Reading Tutor/OG](#)

| Pg. # | Activity |
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| 4 | K.W.L. Chart |
| 5 | Fact File |
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| 13 | Friendly Letter |
| 14 | Fact Poster Template |
| 15 | Credits |



Name: _____

Date: _____

What I know...

A large rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for writing what the student knows about backyard creatures.

Fill in the KWL Chart
about Backyard
Creatures.

What I learned...

A large rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for writing what the student learned about backyard creatures.

What I want to know...

A large rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for writing what the student wants to know about backyard creatures.



Beneficial Insects Fact File



Fast facts:

- There are over a million known insects on the planet.
- They make up 75% of the animal kingdom.
- Beneficial insects help our planet's ecosystem.

Do you think all insects are pests? Well think again. Only a very small portion, or part of our planet's insect population is really harmful. The rest are called beneficial insects. Beneficial, or helpful, means these critters have very important jobs. They keep our planet healthy. Without them, there may be serious problems.

Some insects help with pollination, like bees. Without bees many flowers and fruits wouldn't grow. Others are natural garden protectors, like ladybugs. They eat aphids, small insects that like to eat through your vegetable garden. Worms help decompose or break down natural materials in our backyard, which helps to create rich soil.

Take some time in your backyard or local park to stop and observe these helpful insects. Provide a safe environment for them by not spraying pesticides, or harmful chemicals which destroy them. You'll find out these creatures really are beneficial!

1. I am a butterfly!

I have four stages in my life cycle as a butterfly: egg, larva, chrysalis and butterfly. I'm attracted to certain plants growing in your backyard.

Question: Which two words are compound words?



2. I am a bumble bee!

I live in a small nest. After I drink nectar from flowers, I will make honey in honey pots. My body looks a little furry, unlike other bees. I'll only grow to be about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long.

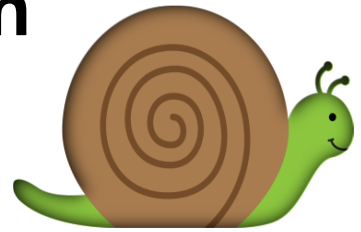
Question: What does unlike mean?



3. I am a snail!

I love dark, damp places in your backyard. Feasting on fruits and vegetables makes me a vegetarian. Did you know I can live up to 15-20 years?

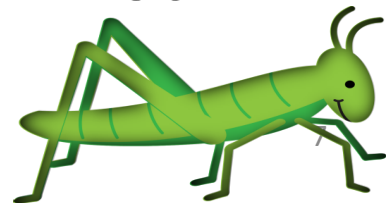
Question: What is a synonym for feasting?



4. I'm a grasshopper!

Would you like help finding the temperature outside? Count my chirps for 15 seconds. Then, add 39 to that number. That is the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit!

Question: If I've chirped 30 times in 15 seconds, what's the temperature?



5. I'm a caterpillar!

I am one hungry critter! My first meal is usually my own shell. I need to eat tons of food, so I can become a moth or butterfly someday. With my 12 eyes, I'm sure to spot my next meal!

Question: Which sentence is an example of cause and effect?



6. I'm a ladybug!



I can smell with my feet and my antennae. Put me in your garden to get rid of those pesky aphids. I can eat up to 75 aphids a day! Birds: Stay away. My bright color means I do not taste good!

Question: Infer: Why would a ladybug have a brightly colored body?

7. I am a caterpillar!

Did you know I have 3 body parts? They are: head, thorax, and abdomen. I have eight pairs of legs for a total of 16 legs! Spiracles, little holes on the sides of my body, help me breathe.

Question: Which 2 words have 3 syllables?



8. I am a snake!

Common Garter snake here. I live in United States and Canada. Safe in my den in winter, with lots of my other snakes, I hibernate. When it comes time to have babies, I may give birth to as many as 40 Garter snakes!

Question: Name 3 proper nouns.



Name: _____

Date: _____



“Backyard Creatures” Recording Sheet

| | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |
| 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. |

Name: ANSWER KEY

Date: _____

“Backyard Creatures” Recording Sheet

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Butterfly and backyard are compound words | 2. Unlike means not the same as. |
| 3. A synonym for feasting is eating. | 4. The temperature is 69 degrees Fahrenheit. |
| 5. An example of a cause and effect sentence is “I need to eat tons of food, so I can become a moth or butterfly someday.” | 6. I infer a ladybug has a brightly colored body as a warning to predators. |
| 7. Caterpillar, abdomen and spiracles all have 3 syllables. | 8. Garter snake, United States, and Canada are proper nouns. |

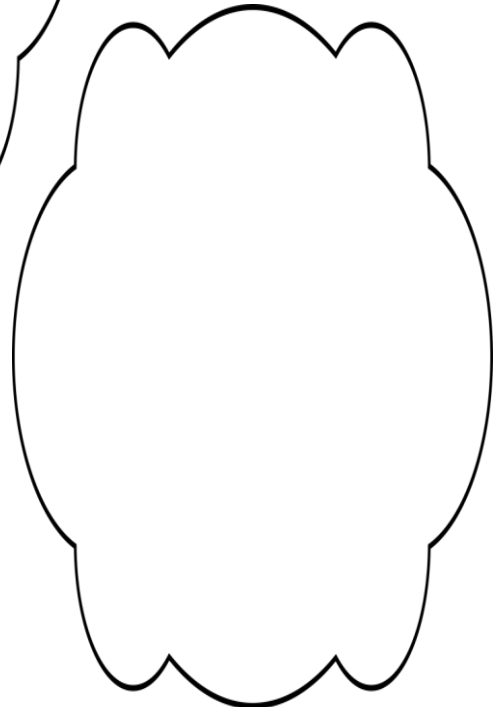
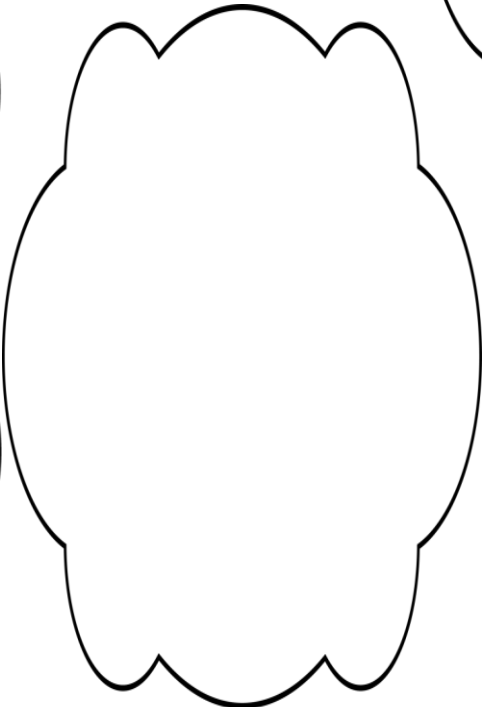
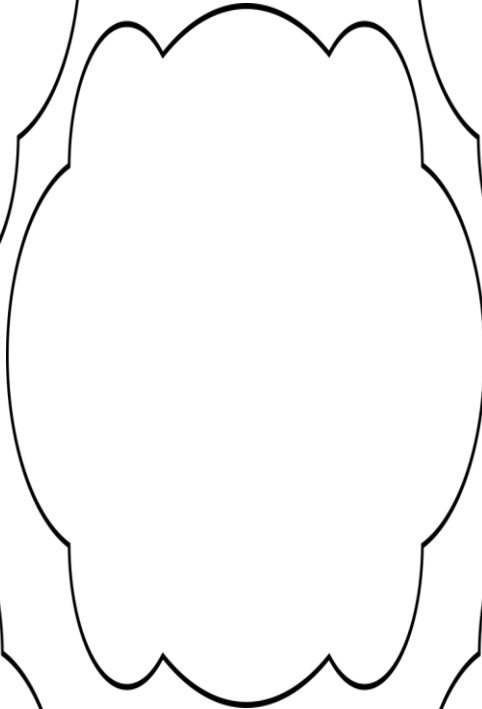
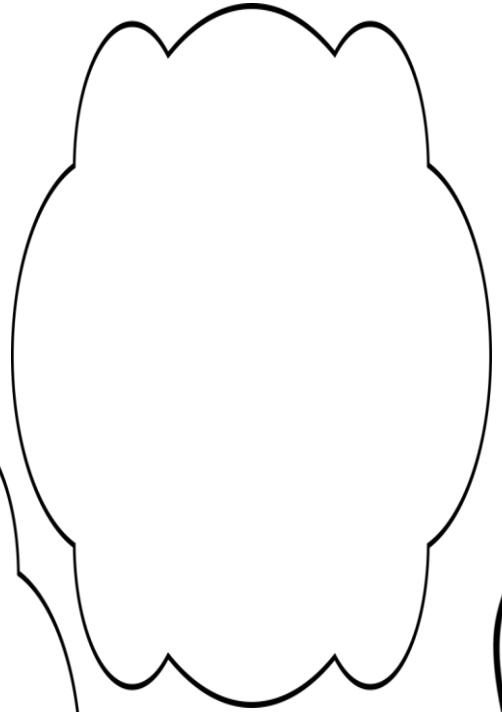
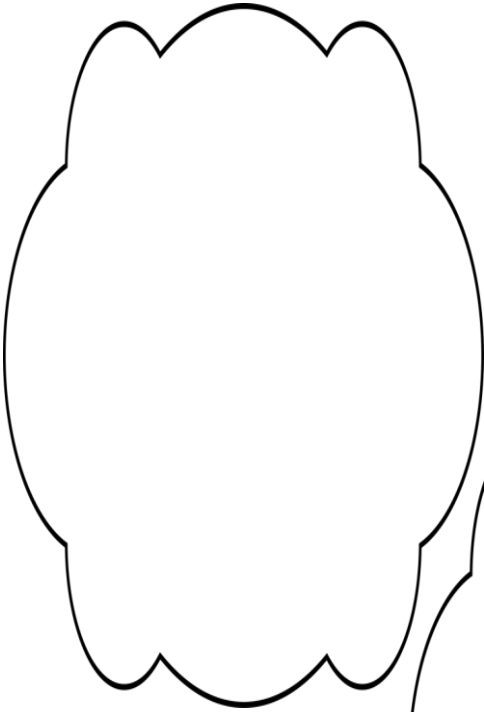
Name: _____ Date: _____

Pretend you are a backyard creature. Write a letter about a day you had in a backyard. Explain what you did and the challenges you had that day.

Dear _____,

Sincerely,

My Fact Poster about:



Credits:

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Backyard Bugs Clipart: Vanessa Raidy,
[Goodness and Fun](#)

Backyard photo: [www.morguefile.com](#)

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