



Waldo County 4-H Program  
992 Waterville Rd, Waldo, ME 04915  
(207) 342-5971 Ext  
(800) 287-1426 toll free in Maine  
(800) 287-8957 TDD  
sadee.mehuren@maine.edu  
joyce.weaver@maine.edu

*Putting knowledge to work with the people of Maine*

## **Bugs, Bugs and More Bugs**

**Purpose of activity:** The purpose of this activity is to have fun observing and identifying bugs. In this activity participants will learn about entomology, the study of insects.

### **Materials**

- Trees in your yard
- Clothesline rope with clothespins
- White bed sheet
- A battery-operated light source (construction light, a camp light, or a flashlight)
- An adjustable stand
- A notebook and pencil
- Bug identification book or access to an online bug identification site such as [www.insectidentification.org](http://www.insectidentification.org)
- Optional: digital camera

### **Instructions**

1. In your yard, find two trees that are spaced about the width of your sheet apart. If you do not have trees in your yard, you can use wooden stakes.
2. String your clothesline between the two trees and use the clothespins to hang the sheet up on the line.
3. Place your battery-operated light behind the sheet, with the light angled directly at the white sheet. You may need an adjustable stand for the light to sit on. The stand will also serve as a service area for bugs to land on.
4. Be patient and wait for the bugs to gather around your light or on your sheet.
5. As bugs arrive at your observation site, record the characteristics of bugs that you see or photograph them.
6. Use your bug identification book or handout to identify the bugs have gathered on the sheet and table.