

PCN[®] junior

The Magazine for Budding Pest Controllers

June 2022



ISSUE
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Join Oscar and his new friend, Lily the dragon fly. What can we learn about animals around the lake?



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Super FUN
Bug Bites!

Let's make some fruit and veg bugs to eat!



WELCOME



PCN®
junior

The Magazine
for Budding
Pest Controllers

PCN Junior is a fun and interactive magazine brought to you by the creators of Pest Control News.

PCN Junior is for kids keen to learn about insects and animals. This issue, we're celebrating summer and getting outdoors. Exploring your local area is a great way to find out which critters you share a space with. If you have a garden,

see what you can find in the grass. Maybe there's a lake nearby you can explore. Stuck in on a rainy day? Why not stay inside and finish our puzzles? We've even got a great competition for you to enter!

Read more to find out!



When you go out into the summer sun, you might be greeted by more flies and wasps than you'd see in winter. Insects are cold-blooded and thrive in warmer temperatures. Like us, though, they also like to seek shade and find that shade in your home.

Food in your home attracts flies, who then vomit onto the food to liquify it enough for them to eat. Flies carry many diseases which are transferred by the vomit and put humans at risk. Wasps do not eat the same way but often sting humans and make nests in and around homes. Pest controllers keep insects away from areas they shouldn't be, to keep humans safe.

They don't just protect us from insects, either. They work with rats, mice and other pesky critters. The rats and mice people keep as pets are different to the ones in the wild, as they're bred to be domesticated.

Controlling pests can also make sure the total number of a species stays at a safe level for the eco-system. The whole planet has an eco-system that may be changed if too many of one species thrives and eats another.

What's hiding in the garden?



BLACK ANTS

(Lasius niger) live in colonies in soil, under rocks or in other cavities. In the warm summer months, winged ants take flight for mating. Worker ants like to steal your treats because they love sweet food.



HOUSEFLIES

(Musca domestica) are the worst BBQ guests. They cannot eat solid foods and will vomit onto food to break it down so they can drink it. Flies are more active in summer so watch out for more of them whizzing around your kitchen trying to steal your favourite meals.



WASPS

(Vespidae) like to live by trees and shrubs, and make paper-like nests. They are attracted to foods which are high in protein and sweet foods. Wasps sting when they feel threatened, and can sting multiple times without harming themselves.



RATS

(Rattus norvegicus) are social rodents. You may see them one at a time but they often live in groups. They live underground but, despite the dirt, are clean animals and regularly groom themselves. They often carry diseases harmful to humans.



FLEAS

(Siphonaptera) are tiny pests that prefer to feed on the blood of animals but they will feed on human blood if they can. They cannot fly but have amazing jumping skills, so they travel between hosts.



MOLES

Moles *(Talpidae)* are not blind but have very poor vision and rely more on their sense of smell. They still manage to find the food they love, which is mostly worms and insects. Moles are very hungry. An 80g mole needs 50g of earthworms per day!

LILY'S LAKE

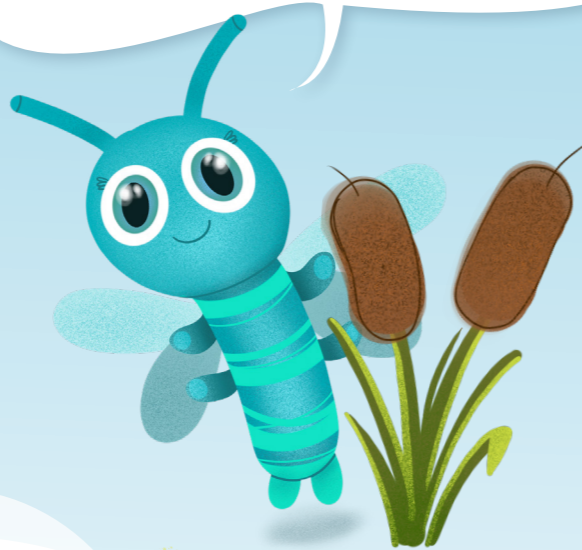
AND WHAT OSCAR FOUND THERE

Oscar ran to the lake near his house, his backpack jiggling with every excited step. If he hadn't wrapped his sandwiches tightly, the inside of the bag would be covered in jam. He had been waiting for a beautiful, sunny day to explore the area around the lake and find out which species lived there.

Nobody else was at the lake. The whole place to myself, he thought. He walked around the lake first, listening for changes in the sound of humming and buzzing from all the different insects who made the area their home. He liked to imagine what they were saying to each other and think that some of the insects were on a daytrip just like him.

After his first lap, he went to the bank of the lake. There were some long reeds that were taller than him – and he was tall for his age! – Oscar wanted to explore, so he pulled apart the reeds and poked his head inside to hear

"Oi! What are you doing in my house?"



Oscar jumped back a little, still holding the reeds but his head was out in the open. Through the gap, he could see a bright green dragonfly hovering at his eye level. "Sorry, I'm exploring the lakeside and wanted to know what was in here. My name's Oscar". The dragonfly flew towards him slowly. "I'm Lily. You took me by surprise just then. What are you exploring for?" Oscar thought hard for a moment before answering. "I love the lake and want to know more about the insects that live here." Lily gave Oscar a friendly smile. "I love exploring too. I was on my way out to stretch my wings. I could tell you about my neighbours if you like?" Oscar grinned. He usually liked exploring on his own but this was a special

opportunity. How many people had a dragonfly as their own tour guide? "I'd love to know more about the lakeside. Have you lived here long?" Oscar queried. "I was born and raised by this lake," Lily replied proudly, "I've been here my whole life. Three days!". She was completely out of the reeds now and Oscar had let go, standing with his hands holding the straps of his bag. They set off together, Oscar trying to keep up with Lily's pace. She was trying to go slowly for him but was still amazingly fast. She darted in all directions, looking out for friends and visitors. She flew back to him with the same excitement he had when he set off to the lake. "The Beestons are here! I hope you have some sweets with you, they like to spoil themselves on holiday."

Two big bumble bees appeared in front of him, with tiny backpacks, like he had.

Lily introduced them as Benny and Bertha. "Alright, young man" Benny said. "Lily says you're exploring the lakeside. Me and my wife are doing the same. We're on a daytrip from the hive but have still been collecting some pollen as a memento." Both bees turned slightly to show Oscar their backpacks. Oscar took off his own backpack to reveal the sweet treat he had prepared for lunch. Both bees darted towards his hands.

Maybe I would have to go home for lunch after all, he thought, as the bees gorged themselves on sticky strawberry jam.

Lily then introduced Oscar to a family of Mayflies. They were flying around lazily, enjoying the sunshine. Behind them, water insects were leaving small ripples in the lake as they skimmed across the surface. By the time Lily had introduced him to a water spider, that had been hiding under the surface, Oscar's tummy had started rumbling. He was so hungry.

"Bet you wish you hadn't given away those sandwiches!" Lily remarked, noticing

Oscar rub his tummy, "Don't worry, I can help you out." Before he could respond, she had zoomed across the pond, showing off as she performed loop-de-loops to catch midges in mid-air. She came back with her cheeks and hands full.

"Here you go," she said gleefully, the words slightly muffled because she hadn't finished her mouthful. "The Waltons hatched loads of little ones last night so there's plenty to spare."

"No, thanks. They look gross," Oscar declined, trying to hide the guilt as he watched Lily shove the remaining midges from her hands into her mouth. She shrugged, "Suit yourself".



Oscar was still hungry and his stomach groaned louder, he looked at his house longingly. As he looked over, he noticed dark clouds looming over.

The beautiful sunny day had gone. It was time to go. "Thank you for introducing me to everyone," he said. "Will I see you next week?" "Probably not, Oscar. We may all be gone. But there'll be others to take our place."

Bug Bites



Ingredients:



Ask an adult to help with using knives!

Fruit Bugs:

What you Need:

- 3 Celery Sticks
- 100g Peanut Butter
- 1 Pack of Grapes (sliced lengthways)
- 4 Sliced Strawberries
- 100g Blueberries
- 1 Sliced Apple
- 50g Raisins
- 2 Kiwis
- 1 Box of Cereal Puffs

Veggie Bugs:

What you Need:

- 3 Celery Sticks
- 2 Mini Cucumbers
- 100g Cream Cheese
- 10 Cucumber Slices
- 1 Pack Cherry Tomatoes
- 1 Bunch of Chives
- 7 Black Olives
- 10 Cashews

Here at Killgerm we would love to see your creations, why not tag us in our social media pages!

Facebook: @PestControlNewsLtd
 Instagram: @pestcontrolnews
 Twitter: @PestControlNews

1 Prep the eyes. For your veggie bugs, pipe or scoop blobs of cream cheese onto a plate. Slice smaller black olives to make the pupils and place them in the cheese. Pop in the freezer to make assembly later easier. For fruit bugs, do the same with peanut butter and push the end of a raisin into the blobs.
For a less fiddley approach to eyes, you can use the candy eyes that are found in most baking aisles in supermarkets.

2 Make sure your fruit and veg is clean before starting. Slice the mini cucumbers and celery so they have flat edges (this flat edge on the bottom helps the cucumber and celery to stand upright). Remove cucumber seeds with a spoon.

3 Dont forget! When preparing smaller fruit and veg such as grapes, slice them lengthways to prevent a choking hazard.



4 For your veggie bugs, cover the celery and cucumber sticks with cream cheese. We used a plastic bag with the corner cut off as a piping bag.
For the fruit bugs, cover with peanut butter. Use these as a base for your creations!

5 Have fun! You can use existing bugs for ideas or make up your own. Maybe you want to use the apple slices as wings or the chives as ridges along a bug's back. The possibilities are endless.





SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find the 10 differences between the two pictures?

SOLUTION

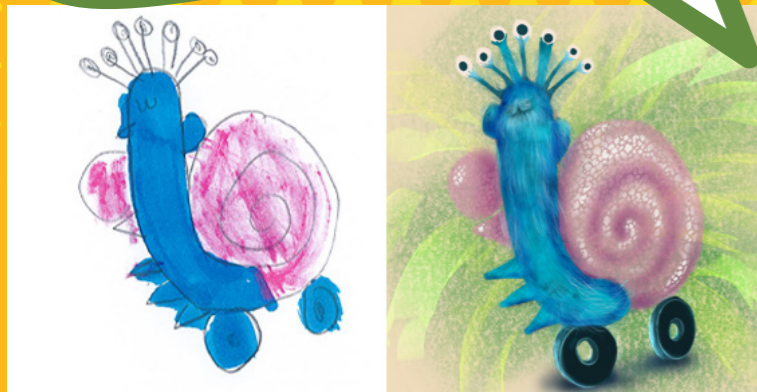


BUDDING ARTISTS



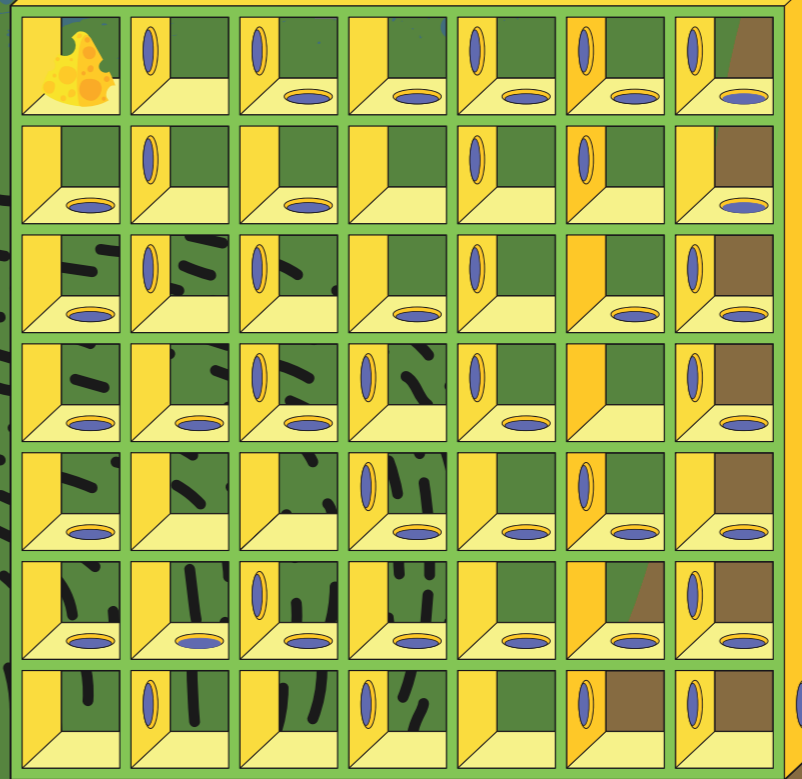
Do you want to design the cover of our next PCN Junior?

Send in your drawing of a bug and we'll choose our favourite to put on the cover of our next issue! That's not all - we'll turn your creature into a character and make them the star of their very own story. You can draw your favourite insect or one you've made up! Send us some details about the bug, plus your drawing, and we'll use it to write the story.

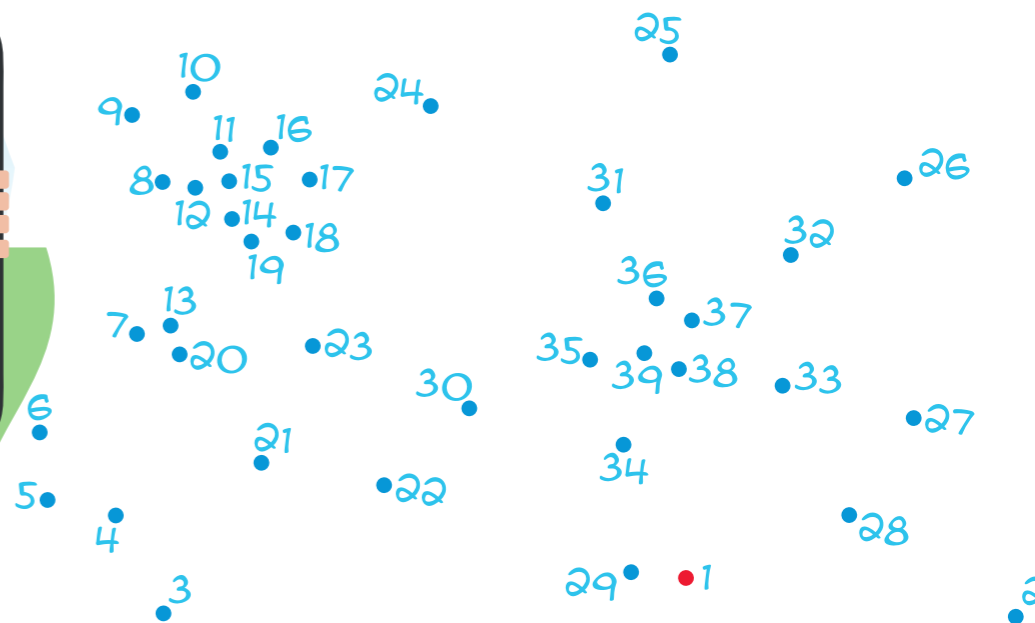
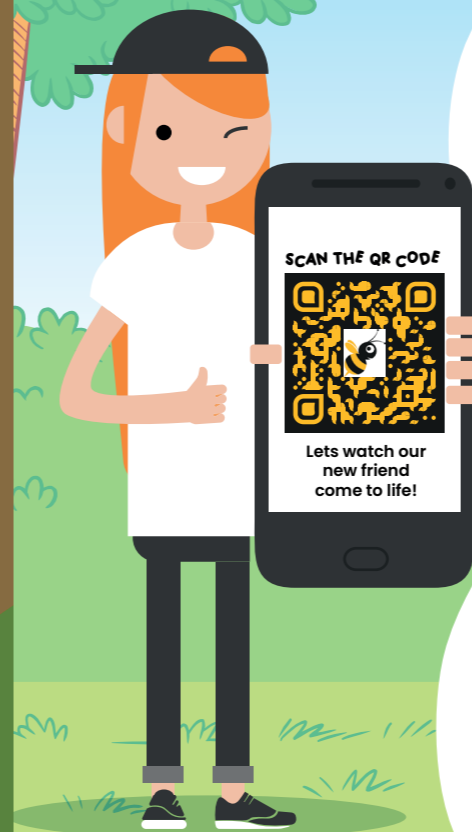


GAME CORNER

Help Jasper the mouse find his cheese dream



Complete the Dot - to - dot below and scan the QR code to bring your mystery friend to life!





FUN FACTS



WOW!



BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

Awesome Facts!

- Eat various flying insects. They catch their food mid-air and drink by skimming across the surface of water and scooping water with their beaks.
- Migrate from South Africa to the UK around April and start returning in September. That's a round trip of roughly 12,000 miles!
- They mate for life and return to the same nesting sites every year.
- Male and female swallows look almost identical.
- Nest north of the arctic circle in Norway and Finland.
- Can fly at around 30mph.
- 16-25g weight (roughly the weight of a bag of crisps!).

Don't be sad...
...when a bird poos
on your head.

**Be happy that dogs
can't fly.**

