Observing Garden Creatures

Collecting bugs in your garden is a great way to learn about animals.

You don't need a lot of equipment. A glass jar makes a good specimen jar (or you could use any see through plastic container.) You can use a net or pick them up with your hands or a piece of cardboard. Take care- only handle creatures that you are sure won't bite you. **Never pick up bees or spiders!**
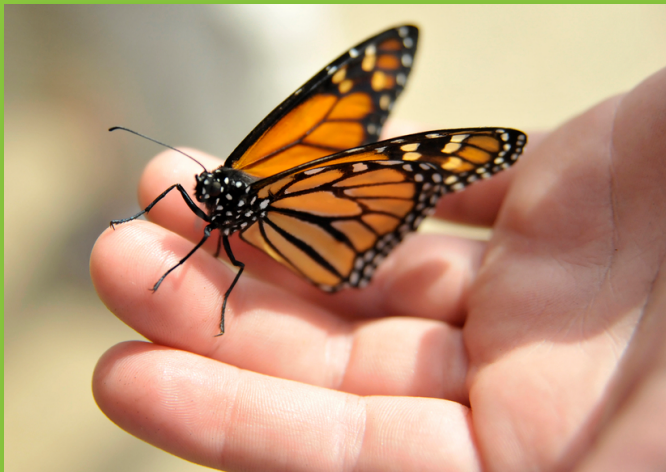
Using a butterfly net isn't as easy as you would think. Flying bugs are really fast!

Watch where you are going and swipe carefully! You don't want to hurt your friends or the bugs.

When you have trapped a bug, quickly tilt your net so that the net folds over the rim of the hoop. That way the bug will not escape!

Avoid picking up butterflies and moths. They are very delicate creatures. Place your finger under them and let them crawl onto you.

Another way to collect bugs with your net is to sweep the net through the garden. Bugs that are clinging to plants will get scooped up in the net as you walk.
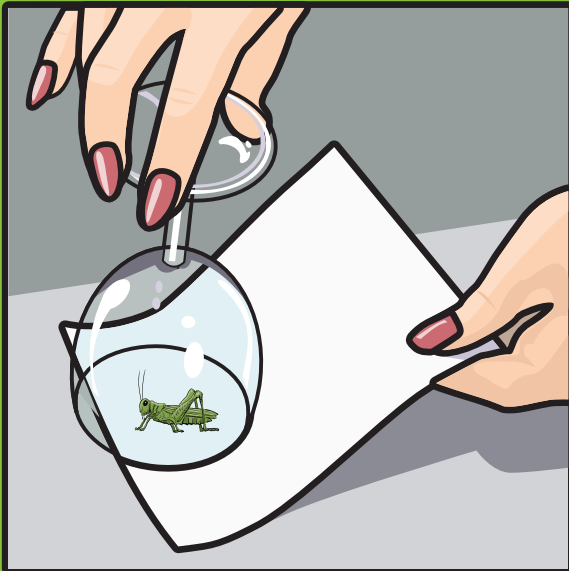
Make sure you have your specimen jar handy!

This is a good way to capture a creature on a hard surface:

Carefully place a clear glass over the bug. (Watch out for all of its body parts!) Then slowly slide a card or a piece of paper under the glass. The card will enable you to pick up the glass, trapping the creature inside.

This is a great way to transport unwelcome little visitors out of your house! Take the card away and let them crawl out.

Be sure to hold insect specimens gently. Let them crawl on you rather than picking them up by their body parts.

Look carefully. You never know what you will find if you look in the right places! Litttle creatures can be found in the garden, under rocks and even inside buildings. Be especially careful if you are turning rocks over. Wearing gardening gloves is a good idea.

Always release your garden creatures when you have finished observing them.

It is important to release them back to their natural habitat, exactly where you found them.