



albatros

## GROWING UP LADYBUG



## GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

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**Curriculum:** Plant and Animal Interactions; Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms; Life Cycles; Reading Informational Texts

● AGES 6-9

● GRADES K-4

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● GR: P

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# BEFORE READING

## Essential Questions

1. How do ladybugs grow and change over time?
2. How do ladybugs spend their days and the course of their lives?
3. What are the different types of ladybugs?
4. Why are ladybugs important in nature?

## Vocabulary

- Hibernate
- Loveliness
- Elytra
- Feelers
- Aphids
- Predators
- Poison
- Metamorphosis
- Egg
- Larvae
- Pupae
- Beetles

## Discussion Questions

Read the blurb at the back of the book. Who will be telling the story in this book?

What do you already know about ladybugs?

Do you have any personal memories that relate to this topic?

Have you ever seen a ladybug? Where?

What do you think ladybugs eat?

What do you think this story will teach us?

What questions do you have about ladybugs?



# DURING READING

## Discussion Questions

What is the setting of this story? Describe what is happening in this setting.

What do you notice about the anatomy of a ladybug?

Where do ladybugs live?

According to the author, there are many different species of ladybugs in the world! Which of these few ladybugs is your favorite?

How are ladybugs helpful in nature?

What are some ways that ladybugs protect themselves against predators?

Explain the different phases in the life cycle of a ladybug.

What do the ladybugs look like during each phase? Use your movements and your body to demonstrate what this stage is like.

What is the setting at the end of the story? Why do you think the author chose this setting?

# AFTER READING

## Discussion Questions

Was there any information that was already familiar to you?

What are the four stages of a ladybug's life cycle?

What do ladybugs do during each season of the year?

Where do ladybugs usually live?

How are ladybugs helpful to gardens?

How is a ladybug's life cycle similar to other animals? How is it different?

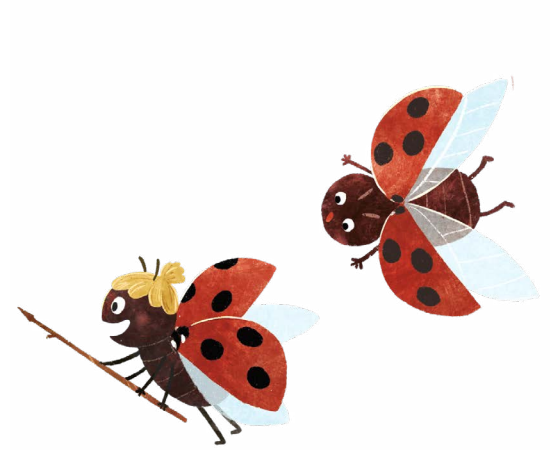
What was the most interesting thing you learned?

What connections did you make while reading today?

Think of three facts about ladybugs that you would like to share with another friend or family member.

## Ladybug Food Hunt

Explain that ladybugs help gardens by eating pests called aphids. Hide paper aphids around the room and have students "fly" around collecting them with cups.



# AFTER READING

## Art Extension

Materials:

- Paper plates
- Black paper
- Red paint or markers
- Pipe cleaners

Have students assemble the body parts of a ladybug using the materials. They should label the different parts of ladybug anatomy to show their understanding.

## Yoga and Movement

Integrate movement and science by engaging students in yoga poses inspired by the story:

- Egg pose » curl into a ball
- Larva crawl » stretch forward
- Pupa rest » kneel and tuck in
- Ladybug fly » arms wide balance

## Acrostic Poetry

An acrostic poem is a form of poetry where the first letter of each line (or sometimes the last letter or middle) spells out a specific word or phrase. Create an acrostic poem using one of the vocabulary words relating to ladybugs.



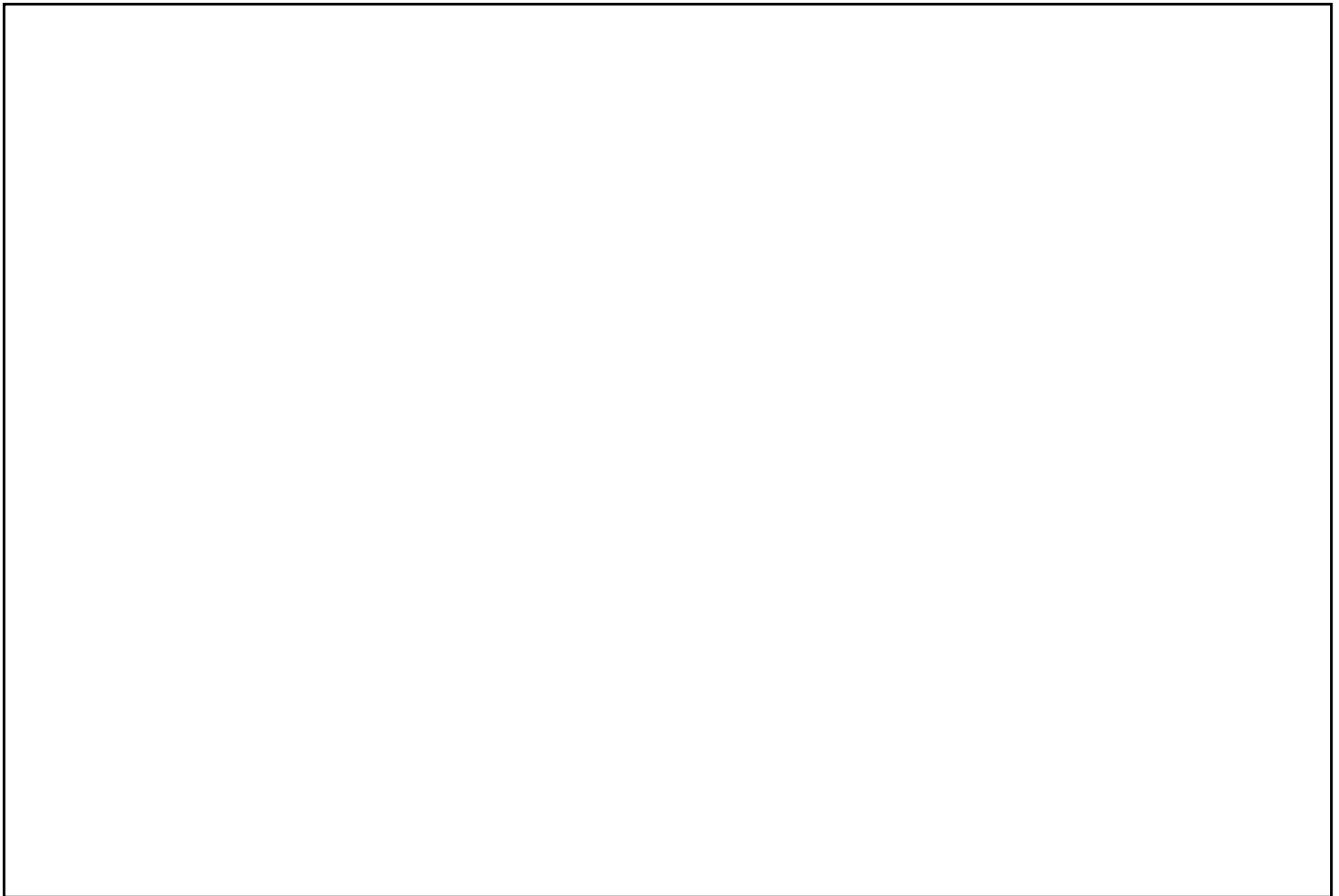
**L**ittle red wings  
**A**lways flying  
**D**ots on its back  
**Y**ellow and black  
**B**eautiful bug  
**U**nder the leaves  
**G**arden helper

# AFTER READING

## Ladybug Vocabulary

Use at least 5 of the words below to illustrate and describe a ladybug scene using the information you learned about ladybugs in this text.

- Hibernate
- Loveliness
- Elytra
- Feelers
- Aphids
- Predators
- Poison
- Metamorphosis
- Egg
- Larvae
- Pupae
- Beetles



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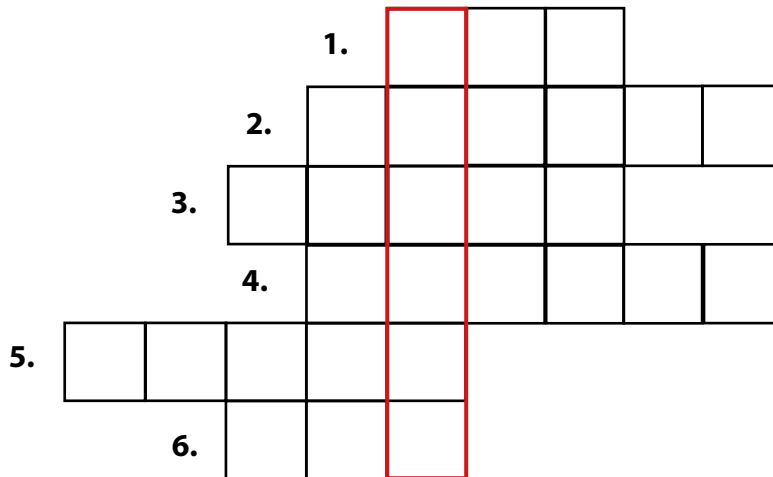
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# LET'S PLAY TOGETHER

1. When can you spot the first ladybugs? You'll find the answer in the crossword puzzle.

1. How many legs does a ladybug have?
2. What is a ladybug's favorite food?
3. What is the second stage of a ladybug's life cycle called?
4. During which season do ladybugs hibernate?
5. How many spots does the most well-known species of ladybug have?
6. What is the first stage of a ladybug's life cycle called?



2. Color your own ladybug. Will it look traditional, or will you choose new colors for it? And how many spots will it have? It's all up to you, little artist.

