

LAND OF LADYBUGS

AGES

Children 4+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A fun, hands-on ladybug program! In a local park, read ladybug books and talk about where ladybugs live, what they eat, and their role in the ecosystem. Make simple ladybug masks if you have access to outdoor tables. Then each child releases their ladybugs. The best time for a ladybug release is in the early evening of May or June. Suggested runtime: 90 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For ladybug release, you will need:

- Ladybugs divided into individual cups (one per child)
- Water bottles (one per child)

Divide ladybugs into individual containers right before the program. Before children release their ladybugs, have them dampen the area with their water bottles, as the ladybugs will be thirsty after their long travel.

For ladybug masks, you will need:

- Red and black construction paper
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue

Cut out red ladybug masks (including eye holes) and black dots before the program. During the program, children glue black dots onto their masks and add popsicle stick handles.



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Consider partnering with a local park to integrate a StoryWalk into this program. Instead of the self-information placards one might usually see along a trail, you make temporary placards out of pages from a single children's book. See the StoryWalk website for more: <https://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk>

ADAPTATION:

For older children, play an identification/ guessing game with red and black ladybug look-alikes.

ADAPTATION:

Have teens design and build their own ladybug boxes.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Hold program in a local park, forest, or nature preserve. Check with park naturalists before releasing thousands of ladybugs into the ecosystem.

RESOURCES

Web

StoryWalk information: <https://bit.ly/3btd89l>

Ladybugs for purchase (comes with lifecycle poster): <https://amzn.to/3bm-mLqA>

Ladybug house tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2WpbiSX>

Ladybug Picture Books

Are You a Ladybug? (2003) by Judy Allen (NF)

The Backyard Bug Book (2019) by Lauren Davidson (NF)

The Grouchy Ladybug (1999) by Eric Carle (F)

Hugs and Kisses for the Grouchy Ladybug (2018) by Eric Carle (F)

It's a Good Thing There Are Ladybugs (2014) by Joanne Mattern (NF)

Ladybug Girl (2008) by David Soman and Jackie Davis (F)

Lucy Ladybug (2016) by Sharon King-Chai (F)

What the Ladybug Heard Next (2018) by Julia Donaldson (F)

Yoo-Hoo, Ladybug! (2011) by Mem Fox and Laura Ljungkvist (F)