

Lady Ladybug



I enjoy crawling on leaves and all over flower pots.
I am a small red bug.
On my back, I have seven black dots.

Sometimes people allow me to crawl on their hand.
You never know where I may appear.
No, I don't bite, I just tickle. Isn't that grand?

Farmers love me because I help protect their crop.
My favorite food is plant-eating insects,
Like green aphids, that are tasty as a gumdrop.

Sometimes I spread my wings and glide,
Though I don't fly often.
For fun, I like to find a blade of grass and slide.

I have one pair of antennae that help me find water and food.
My life span is usually 1 to 3 years.
My six legs take me wherever I'm in the mood.

Lady Ladybug Activity

(Grade Level: First Grade – Second Grade)

Materials: Overhead Projector, or SMART Board, copies of poem, as well as the writing and drawing activity. Pencils, crayons or colored pencils. Pictures or books (with pictures) of ladybugs for students to look at to assist them with drawing.

Note If you choose to use the SMART Board you may go to Mightybook.com and pull up the lesson online.

Goal of Activity: The rhyming poem can be used as an additional resource to reinforce rhyming words and sharpen listening skills. The Lady Ladybug writing and drawing activity will allow students to write the rhyming word pairs and draw a picture of a ladybug crawling, eating, etc. The research activity is a resource to teach students how to find answers to questions and information in things they read.

1. **Picture Walk:** Begin with a picture walk, by asking students what they see in the picture. Use the picture as a prompt for discussing the objects as well as the colors used.
2. **Discuss Title:** Discuss the title of the poem. You might ask, for example, “what is a ladybug or where can we find them?” ***Teacher Note*** The poem was written to teach students about Ladybugs.
 - Engage students in discussion about ladybugs and where they find them.
 - Ask other questions, such as, “what do you think they eat, do you think they crawl or fly or both.”
3. **What is Poetry:** You might want to check out a book of poetry for kids at the library. There are many great poetry books that you may be familiar with. Two recommendations are, *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*, and *Ride a Purple Pelican* by Jack Prelutsky. This is a book full of exciting rhymes fun and age appropriate.
 - Ask students if they know what a poem is. You might explain that poems are fun when you juggle your words, patterns and rhythms together to make them exciting. They come in many different forms and can be about anything you want. Below are a few examples of poetry types to discuss with your students.
 - **Rhyming Poems:** use the repetition of the same or similar sounds for two or more words at the end of the lines.

- **Free Verse Poetry:** written in either rhyming or unrhymed lines that have no real rhythm or pattern.
 - If you decided to check out a book, this is a great time to read one very short poem (for this age group) to your students. This way you can get their brain juice valves warmed up for rhymes.
4. **Rhyming Poetry Warm-Up:** Tell students that “*Lady Ladybug*” is a rhyming poem. Ask students if they understand what rhyme means. You may need to give a brief example if there aren’t many hands raised.
 - First, choose a simple word to write on the board. Then ask students for a word that rhymes with the one you wrote. For example, you may write, “mat.” A student might answer with “hat.”
 - Pick two more words that you make up and repeat the step above.
 - Make sure to call on students whose hands are not raised so you can see if they may need a little extra support with the lesson.
 5. **Pass Out Copies of Poem:** Ask a student to pass out “Lady Ladybug” poem. As they are distributing the poem remind all students they will need to listen very closely for rhyming words.
 6. **Read Poem:** Read “*Lady Ladybug*” and ask students to follow along with you. At the ends of each line pause for a few seconds and look around the room to see if students are following along.
 7. **Students Read Aloud and Circle Rhyming Words:** Using your Overhead Projector or SMART Board, have students read along with you the second time. *Challenge your students to read one line at a time.*
 - *Ask a student to read the first line. Then ask another student to read the second line. Have the first student read the third line. Have those two students work together to decide which words rhyme.*
 - *When the two students agree ask the class if the rhyming words are correct. When everyone agrees ask class to circle the rhyming words together.*
 - Ask another student the meaning of the rhyming words. For example, “What do ‘gumdrop’ and ‘crop’ mean?”
 - Continue circling the rhyming words along with your students and asking them the meaning of the words.
 - *Advanced: This is a poem where the first and third lines of each stanza rhyme, but the middle line does not rhyme. Explain to the students that within a poem, a stanza is a group of lines that have a space at the top and*

a space at the bottom. Ask students to identify how many stanzas there are. Explain that in this poem, each stanza works the same way: each one has three lines, and in each one, the first line rhymes with the third line.

8. **Poem Discussion:** After students have read and circled the rhyming words, discuss the poem with them.

Here are a few sample questions you may use:

- What do you think the author of the poem is writing about?
- What do you think the author is trying to tell us?
- Why are ladybugs important?

9. **Writing and Drawing Activity:** Pass out “Lady Ladybug” writing and drawing activity, printed below, and leave a ladybug picture or book at each table for students to view for their illustrations.

- Explain that they will write the rhyming words from the poem on the worksheet provided below. Then ask them to draw a picture of a ladybug eating, crawling, etc.

10. **Lady Ladybug Research Activity:** Pass out copies of this activity, printed below, when students have completed the writing and drawing activity. Students will have a copy of the poem beside them as they do their work. Below are some ideas you may use to present this activity.

- You may complete this as a classroom, assign individually, or assign to groups. Choose the option that you know will allow your students to feel successful with this research activity.
- Remind students to use copies of poem “Lady Ladybug” to find their answers.
- You may ask students to underline their answers in the poem when they find them.
- Remind students to use complete sentences, use periods at the end of sentences, and use capitalization at the beginning of sentences.

Name _____

“Lady Ladybug”

Writing and Drawing Activity

Write the rhyming word pairs from the poem.

1. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.

2. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.

3. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.

4. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.

5. The words _____ and _____ rhyme.

Draw a picture of a ladybug below and be creative.

Name _____

“Lady Ladybug”
Research Activity

Write the rhyming word pairs from the poem.

1. Where do ladybugs crawl?

2. What is their favorite food?

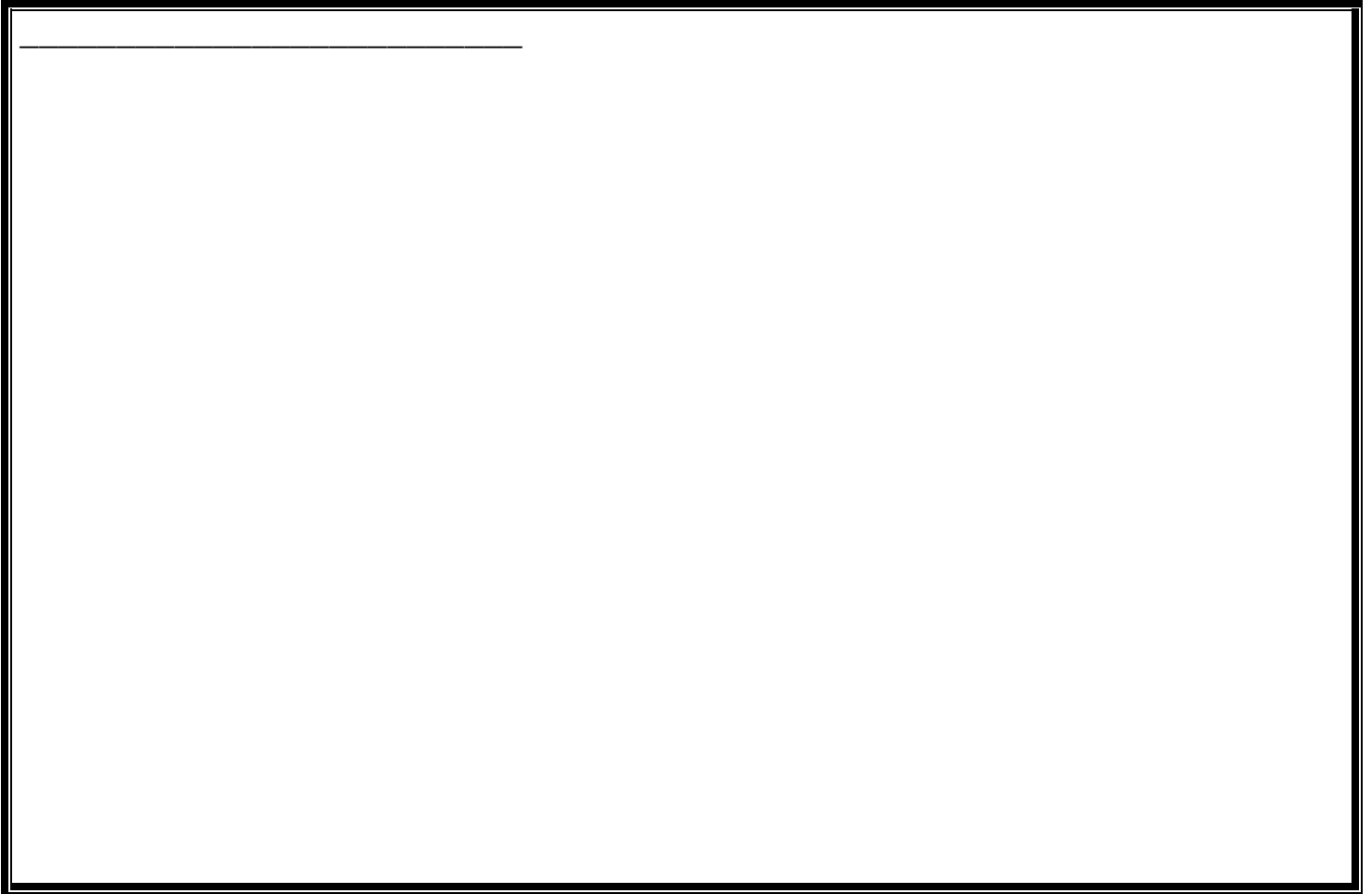
3. How many legs do they have?

4. How long do ladybugs live?

5. Do ladybugs crawl, skip, dance or fly?

6. Have you ever seen a ladybug? If yes, where?

7. Add one more fact about ladybugs from the poem.



***** Lady Ladybug ” Activity Completed: Ask students to give themselves a pat on the back and kiss their brains! Great work today! *****