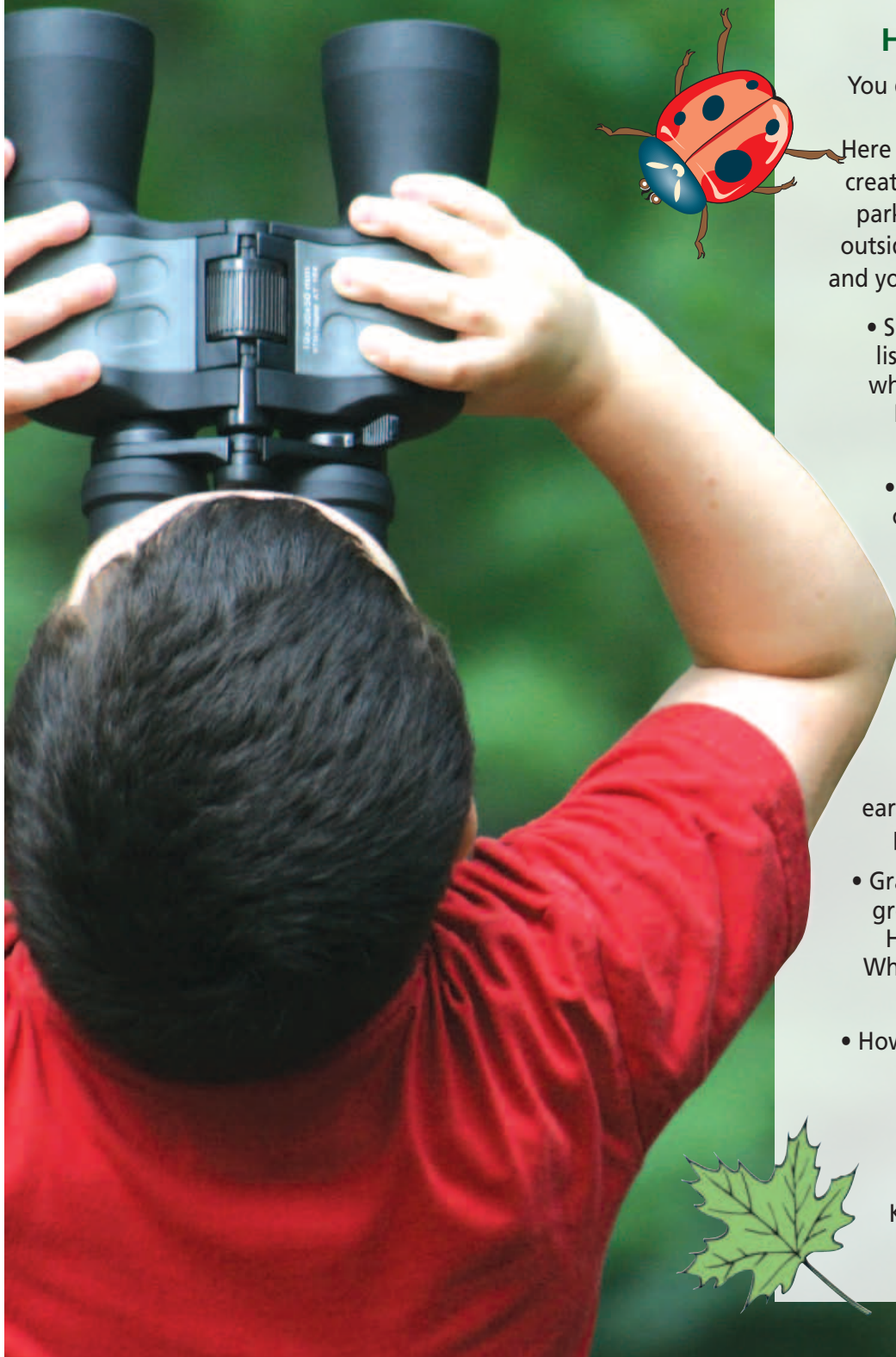
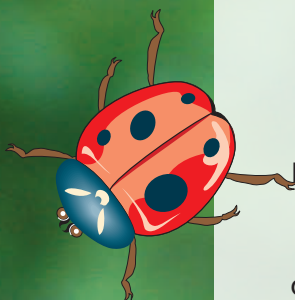


BACKYARD SAFARI

By Kristen Swanberg



Head Out On A Backyard Safari

You don't need to fly to Africa – there's so much to explore just out your front door!

Here in Rhode Island there are some pretty amazing creatures that might just call your backyard or local park home. Some fly, some crawl, some jump! Go outside with a magnifying lens, bug box, binoculars, and your sense of adventure to see what you can find!

- Sit down somewhere comfortable and quietly listen for birds. Do you hear any? Can you see where they are? What color are their feathers? Do you know what kind of birds they are? Watch just one for awhile.
- Ants are fun to watch too! Find a colony and check out what they are up to. Where are they going? Are they big ants or little ones?
- Look under the leaves of bushes and small trees for caterpillars. Can you see clues to what they have been eating? What color are they? Are they fuzzy or smooth? Do you know if they will turn into a butterfly or moth?
- Look under rocks, logs, or boards for earthworms, pill bugs, beetles and more. Be sure to put the rocks back the way you found them.
- Grab a hoop or a loop of string and toss it on the ground. Take a close look just within the circle. How many insects can you find? Any plants? What shapes are the leaves? Try this in different spots like the sidewalk or the woods.
- How many of these backyard critters can you find?

Spittle Bugs
Earthworms
Ants
Caterpillars
Ladybugs



Keep a list of what you find, maybe draw a picture of each. Share it with your family!

