

YOUNG EXPLORERS

Don't Bug Out!

How Insects Weather the Winter

Bugs are everywhere! Or at least they were all through the spring, summer, and fall. But now that it's winter they are almost impossible to find. Here's what some bugs do when the weather turns cold.

Monarch Butterflies

Monarch Butterflies are migrators. Although most Monarchs only live a few weeks, those that migrate south for the winter live for many months, long enough for them to make the 3,000-mile trip to Mexico where they roost (settle down) in trees and mostly rest until spring. In March, they wake up, mate, and lay eggs, which hatch into caterpillars that grow and change into adult butterflies. Then, they continue the journey northward. It can take up to **four** generations of Monarchs to make the full trip back north in the spring but only **one** to make the trip south for the winter.

Honeybees

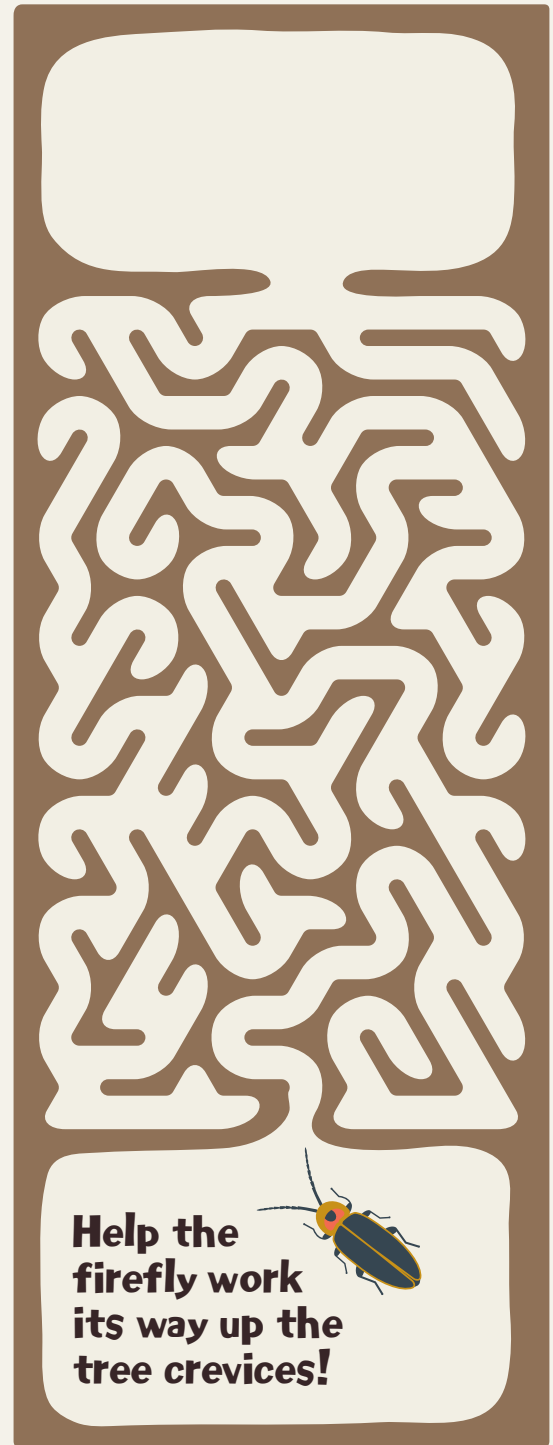
Like Monarchs, honeybees in winter live longer than they do in the summer. While the male (or drone) bees die off, the female worker bees cluster together inside their hive and shake or shiver to generate heat (as high as 90-100 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature of a hot summer day!). They keep up their energy by eating the honey they stored during the summer and fall.

Winter Firefly

This species of firefly is common in New England, but unlike other species of firefly, this one does not light up. It is well-adapted to cold, surviving subfreezing temperatures by wintering in the crevices of tree bark. When you go for a walk in late winter or early spring, try taking a closer look at the trees to see if you can find any fireflies hiding in the bark.

Field Crickets

These insects are sensitive to temperature. Warm temperatures increase their level of activity and make them chirp faster. But when the temperature drops, most are unable to survive. Instead, they carefully lay their eggs in soil to protect them from the cold, so the eggs can survive the winter and hatch in the spring.



Help the firefly work its way up the tree crevices!

ANSWER:

