

Thumbprint bug garden craft



Name: _____



First, a little background on bugs you might find in a garden. You want to find a lot of different types of bugs that use your garden as a home to know that you have a healthy garden. Gardens can be great habitat for bugs, and they will help your garden as well. Earthworms make the soil rich for growing plants, and butterflies and bees pollinate the plants, so we can have more plants each year.

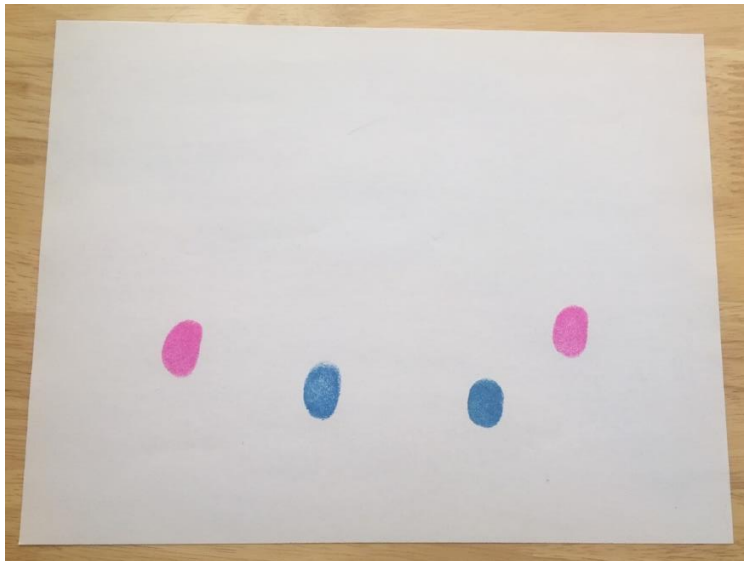
Now that we know a little more about bugs, we can make our own thumbprint bug garden!



Materials:

- A light-colored piece of paper
- Washable markers, stamp pads, or paints in a few different colors
- Other crayons, colored pencils, or markers to add to your project

Our project starts with the garden. First, we are going to make a few flowers. To do this, you are going to want your paper and two different colors of ink in front of you, one for the middle of the flower and one for the petals. Let's start with the color for the middle of the flowers. If you are using washable stamp pads or washable paint, press your thumb lightly into the ink or paint. If you are using washable markers, draw with the marker on the thumb of your other hand. Then, while the ink or paint is still wet, use your thumb as a stamp on your paper where you want the center of your flowers to be. Add a few of these centers; we will want at least a couple flowers in our garden.



Next, we will add the petals to our flowers. These petals can all be the same color or different on each flower. Use a different finger to make the petals, so you don't mix the colors.



Let your flowers dry. While they are drying, be sure to wash off your fingers where you have ink or paint on them. You will need those fingers to make your bugs soon.

While you are waiting for your picture to dry, now is a good time to add stems and leaves to your flowers. You can also add some grass to the bottom of the picture. Just use whatever crayons, color pencils, or markers you have for this part.



Now, it's time to add the bugs! Let's start with a few butterflies. You will need to pick a color for the butterfly's body and another for its wings. I would start with black for the body to make it simple. Just like before, if you are using washable stamp pads or washable paint, press your thumb lightly into the ink or paint. If you are using washable markers, draw with the marker on the thumb of your other hand. Then, while the ink or paint is still wet, use your thumb as a stamp on your paper where you want the body of your butterfly to be. Add a couple of these butterfly bodies to your picture.



Next, we will add the wings to our butterflies. These wings can all be the same color or different on each butterfly. Use a different finger to make the wings, so you don't mix the colors. Butterfly wings look like they are in four sections, so we will use four fingerprints around the body to make the wings.



Let your butterflies dry. While they are drying, be sure to wash off your fingers where you have ink or paint on them.

Now, it's time for a few more bugs! I will add a few bees to my garden, to help with pollination and a ladybug too. For the bees, we will just use a yellow fingerprint for now. Stamp your picture wherever you want the bees. For the ladybug, we will use a red fingerprint, I will stamp mine so it looks like it on a leaf of the flower.



Let your picture dry one last time. While it is drying, be sure to wash off your fingers where you have ink or paint on them.

We are almost done!

Lastly, we just need to add the finishing touches. Use crayons, colored pencils, or markers to add the finishing touches to your thumbprint bugs. Add some black stripes and wings to the yellow fingerprints, to make them look more like bees. Add a line down the middle, some black dots, and six legs to the red fingerprint to make it look more like a ladybug. All of the bugs also need two antennas on the top of their heads. Feel free to add anything else to your picture now to make it your perfect bug garden.



You did it! Congrats on finishing your very own thumbprint bug garden!

You might want to go back and see if you can spot some of your thumbprint bugs in the story from yesterday. Re-watch the reading of our bug book at senecaparkzoo.org/zooprojects