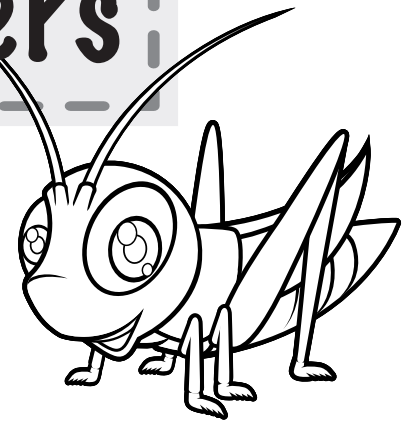


Hopping Critters



This week, children will focus on insects that hop or jump.
They will learn which ones are pests and which ones are hard workers.

Word of the Week

catapult

To catapult means to move or spring quickly up or ahead.

Use the Word of the Week at home.

You might say: *I like the way you catapult out of bed in the morning!*

More Words to Know

camouflage

chirp

cricket

difference

grasshopper

minus sign

separate

A Cricket's Song

Crickets make sounds when they rub their back legs together. You can make a similar sound with a simple "cricket noisemaker." Crinkle strips of aluminum foil and stuff them into a potato chip can or similar container. Add a handful of small pebbles to the can. Place the lid on the can. Have your child test the sound by tipping the can back and forth. Ask: *What is your cricket saying?*

Create a Catapult

Tape the handle of a plastic spoon to a small box or block so that the bowl of the spoon extends off the side of the block. It should bend downward when you push it and spring back up when you let go. Place a small ball of paper in the spoon. Bend the spoon bowl downward and release. See if your child can catapult the paper ball into a pie pan target.

Take the Set Apart

Help your child to understand the idea of subtraction by using small stones or objects like you used last week for modeling addition problems. This time tell stories that involve separating a set to find the difference. For example: *There were four crickets hiding by the rock. They heard a loud noise and two of them hopped away. How many are left?*

How Far Can You Jump?

Grasshoppers can jump 40 feet. Invite your child to show you how far he or she can jump. Compare your child's jump to a grasshopper's jump. Ask: *What would you do if you could jump like a grasshopper?*

Coming Next Week: We will learn about flying insects.