

# HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

## Investigation 1: Environmental Factors

Insects live just about everywhere. Go on a safari with an adult in and around your home or into the neighborhood to look for insects. You might discover insects that are fun and interesting to observe, like butterflies, bees, moths, grasshoppers, and ladybugs. And, you might see insects that are less welcome, but equally interesting, like ants, flies, mosquitoes, and roaches.

You might also encounter some small animals that are not insects, but live in the same environments, like centipedes, millipedes, isopods, spiders, and worms.

**Safety note.** While most insects, spiders, and other small animals are harmless, some can sting (ants, wasps, bees), and some can bite (spiders, centipedes). Observe the animals without touching them (for your safety) and without disturbing them (for their safety and well-being).

Organize the results of your safari in one of two ways.

- If you find only one or two critters, identify them and describe their environments as best you can. Try to identify both living and nonliving factors in the organisms' environments.
- If you go to an environment and find a number of insects and other small animals living there, write a description of the environment (for example, dark, moist, cool). Then list or draw all the different animals living there.