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God's World

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Contents:

1. At the farm
2. Food from God's garden
3. A gift for Mum
4. Fun with animals
5. In a garden
6. A tasty tea
7. Fun with feelings
8. A sea garden
9. A day on a hill
10. The stream
11. The cave

1 At the Farm

“David and Sarah,” said Mum, “Would you like to go to the farm for the school holidays? Grandma and Grandpa would love you to come and stay with them on the farm.”

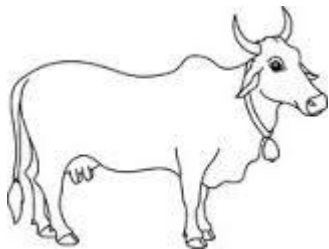
“Oh yes, please!” said the children at the same time. They loved to stay on the farm.

A few days went by. David and Sarah could not wait to go to the farm. They packed their bags very early, and took them to the car.

“We’re ready,” they called to Mum and Dad. The car drove off.

Grandma and Grandpa were waiting for them. They were so happy to see the family. Grandma and Grandpa gave them a hug.

The next morning, David and Sarah got up early. They ran outside.



“Listen to the birds, Sarah,” said David. “They are singing so loudly!”

“Yes,” said Sarah, “Look at all those brightly coloured birds feeding together on the ground. Their colours are so beautiful.”

“Those are parrots,” said David. See, there are more up in that tree too.”

“Come on now,” called David, as he ran across the grass. “Let’s go and help Grandpa now with the animals.”

Activities:

1. Who packed the children’s bags?
2. Why do you think David and Sarah got up early on their first day at the farm?
3. What did the children hear?
4. What were the birds doing?
5. Draw the parrots feeding together.
6. Draw and name some of the animals that could have been on the farm.
7. What do you think the children and grandpa will do next?

2 Food from God's Garden

Early one morning Grandma was going out into the garden.

"David and Sarah," she called, "Would you like to help me hoe the weeds in the garden? They are getting too big and will stop the vegetables from growing."

"Let's see if we can count all the vegetables God has provided for us in my garden," said Grandma.

"Sweet corn! My favourite!" said Sarah. That is one.

Cabbages and beans; two, three.

Carrots, four.

Are those potatoes, Grandma? That makes five already."

"Grandma," called Sarah, "what is this plant with the big leaves and lovely golden flowers?"

"That is a pumpkin plant, Sarah. We get such big pumpkins that you'll be able to sit on them.

That makes six, doesn't it?"

"That's right, and here are some tomatoes," said Grandma. That's seven."

"And onions with long thin leaves. That makes eight kinds of vegetables."

Now let's count the different kinds of fruits," said Grandma.

"Here are some strawberries growing on the ground."

That's one," said Sarah.

Then Grandma told them to look at the trees.

"There are apples and pears on the trees. How many fruits do we have now?"

"Three," answered David.

Eight vegetables and three fruits. How many kinds of food in my garden?" asked Grandma.

"God is very good to us," said Grandma. "Fruit gets ripe at different times of the year. Different vegetables are ready at different seasons. So there is always food for people to eat."

Grandma, if we all shared our food would there be enough for everyone in the world?" asked David

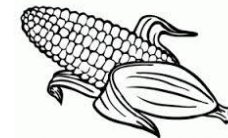
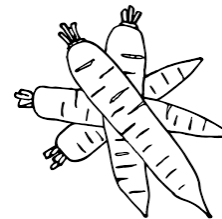
"I'm sure there would be," replied Grandma. God has provided enough food for the whole world. Come on now, we need to finish our work before the sun gets too hot."

Food from God's Garden: Activities

1. Name and draw all the vegetables the children found in Grandma's garden.
2. Name and draw all the fruits in Grandma's garden.
3. Make a list of jobs that need to be done in a fruit and vegetables garden.
4. Why do we need to pull the weeds out?
5. What should you wear if you are working in the garden on a summer's day?
6. Fruits and vegetables get ripe in different seasons. Why is this good thing?
7. Choose the right word:
Apples and pears grow on *trees* / *the ground*

Strawberries grow on *trees* / *the ground*

8. Is there enough food for everyone in the world?
9. What can we do so that everyone has enough?
10. Grandma's garden was in a part of the world with a cool climate. What fruits might she grow if her garden was in place with a hot climate?



3 A gift for Mum

“What a lovely day!” said Grandma. “Do you remember how we counted foods yesterday? Let’s go to the flower garden and do some counting. Did you know that God used numbers when he created plants?”

“I’ve found something! I’m going to count the petals on these flowers,” said Sarah. These flowers have eight petals!

“What have you found David?”

“See these big red flowers with five petals? It looks as if God took a paintbrush and painted a pink stroke on each petal.”

“Look at these leaves!” called Sarah. “The leaves are in groups of three.”

Grandma showed them a creeper on the fence.

“How many leaves make up the pattern on this creeper?” she asked.

Sarah counted, “One, two, three, four, five six, seven, eight, nine! What a pretty pattern!”

Grandma asked the children if they would like to give their Mum a gift of flowers. They thought that this was a good idea.

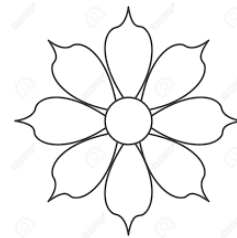
Mum was very happy with her gift.

“Thank you, Sarah, thank you David,” she said. These are beautiful.

The children told Mum about the numbers God uses in His creation.

Activities:

1. Draw the flowers that Sarah found.
2. Draw the flowers that David found.
3. Draw the leaves that Sarah found.
4. Draw the creeper on the fence. Make sure it has the right amount of leaves.



4 Fun with animals

Sarah and David watched the goats on Grandpa's farm. He was getting ready to milk them.

"Grandpa, will you please teach us to milk a goat?" asked Sarah.

"Of course," said Grandpa.

Come and sit next to me and I will show you how to milk a goat."

So the children sat down on the grass and Grandpa showed them what to do.

Then the children had a turn.

"David, you are doing well," said Grandpa. "See how much milk you have in your bucket!

And Sarah, you have done very well too! It is hard to milk a goat. You have both been very patient.

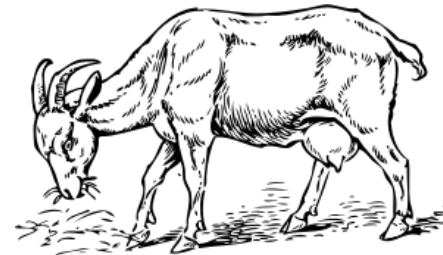
I'll take this milk to Grandma while you have a run with Jess."

Jess was a black and white dog. She was happy to have children to play with. Sarah and David threw a ball to her. Jess jumped up to catch the ball. Then they ran with Jess around the yard. "You are a good dog, Jess," said David. "You help to keep the foxes away from the chickens."

Then Grandma called, "Sarah and David, it's time to feed the chickens. Can you help me? There may be some eggs."

Sarah and David threw the food to the chickens. They ate very quickly... peck, peck, peck.

"Look," said Sarah, "I've found an egg!"



Fun with animals: Activities

1. What does the milk go in?
2. Where did the children sit while they watched Grandpa?
3. Draw a picture of Jess. Use the right colours.
4. What can Jess do with a ball?
5. Why is Jess a good dog?
6. What did Sarah find? Draw a picture.

5 In a garden

Grandma, Mum and the children were sitting quietly in the garden under a shady tree.

“Sarah and David,” said Mum, “do you remember how we read in the Bible that God makes everything work together for good?”

We are going to find out some of the ways He does that in the garden.

Close your eyes, sit very still. Now, how do you know that you are in a garden?”

The children closed their eyes. Suddenly David said, “I know! I can smell the flowers. They smell sweet.”

“Mum smiled, “Good,” she said, “many flowers have a beautiful smell. Can you smell the roses? God gave us the sense of smell. It is His gift to us. Can you see some insects that like the smell of flowers?”

“Yes, look!” said Sarah. There are bees and butterflies. They are visiting the flowers because they like the smell.”

“That’s right!” said Grandma. “That’s one way that God makes things work together. The bees come to the flowers to get honey. In this way, they help the flower seeds to grow.”

Let’s find some other plants that have a beautiful smell. Mum broke off some leaves. “Smell these,” she said.

“Mmmm...What a lovely smell!” said Sarah.

“Smell these leaves,” said Grandma.

She broke one in half and gave it to David.

“It smells like a lemon. Does it come from a lemon tree?”

“Yes, David, it does. Close your eyes again, children. Is there another way to tell that you are in a garden?”

“I know,” cried David, “I can hear the birds sing. I can hear the wind in the trees.”

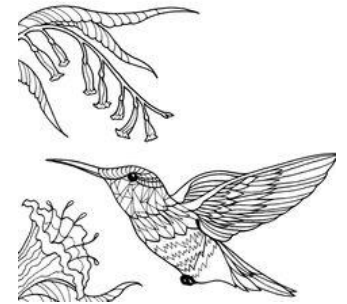


“And I can hear a little noise in the grass,” said Sarah. “Do you think it is a mouse?”

“Yes it could be,” said Grandma. “God gave us ears to hear.”

Do you hear fluttering? Look at that bush.”

They saw a little bird with a very long beak. Its wings fluttered very quickly, and it dipped its beak into a flower to get the honey. It was a honey eater.



The bird perched on a fence and sang a little song to tell its mate that food was near.

“The bird and the flower help each other, too,” said Mum. “Isn’t God good to us?”

He gave us eyes to see each other. He gave us eyes to see the flowers and the birds.

He gave us a nose to enjoy the smell of the flowers and leaves.

He gave us ears to hear the songs of the birds.”

In a garden: Activities:

1. What could the children smell in the garden?
2. Draw the insects that also like the smell of flowers.
3. A beautiful smell is called a scent. In the word scent, the s and c together make the ‘s’ sound. Write a sentence using the word ‘scent’.
4. How do flowers help bees?

5. How do bees help flowers?
6. What other plant in the garden smells beautiful?
7. Draw two creatures the children could hear in the garden.
8. How do flowers help the honey eater?
9. Fill in the missing words:

God gave us:

eyes to _____

ears to _____

a nose to _____



6 A tasty tea

David and Sarah sat on the grass with Mum, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa.

“David” said Sarah, “Wiggle your toes in the grass. It feels so good.”

“Here is your cool drink,” said Mum. “Sit still now so you don’t spill it.”

“I have something good for you to eat!” said Grandma, as she gave everyone some curry and rice.

“Can you think of a gift that God has given us?” asked Grandma.

“I know!” said David quickly. “We can taste things! That curry and rice tasted salty and spicy.”

“May I have some fruit now, please, Gran?”

“Isn’t God clever?” said Grandma. “I’m sure if I was blind I would still know what kind of food I was eating. Mangoes, bananas, oranges, meat and rice...they all taste different! They feel different too!”

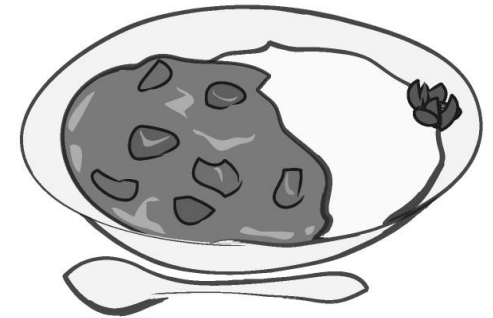
“Yes,” said David. “Bananas are sweet and lemons are sour. Curry is salty and spicy.”

“God is good to us,” said Grandpa. “Our taste protects us too. If food is stale or bad it does not taste good and

we should not eat it. But Grandma’s food is so tasty, we can enjoy it and say thank you for it.

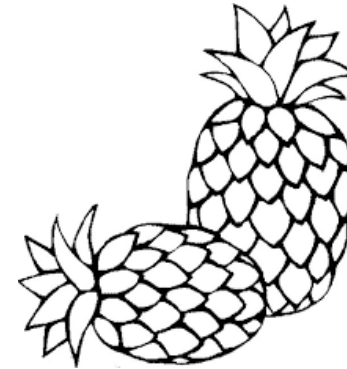
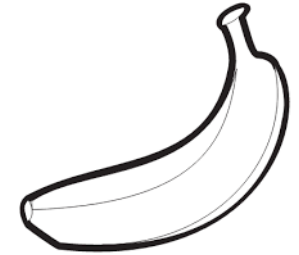
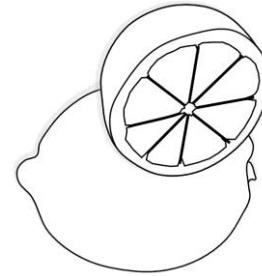
Then Grandpa said a prayer:

“We thank you Lord for our family and most of all for His love and good gifts to us.”



A tasty tea: Activities

1. What did David and Sarah have to eat?
2. Which food that tasted salty and spicy?
3. Draw a plate of curry and rice. Draw meat, rice and some different vegetables. Name the foods in your drawing. Use arrows and write the names of the vegetables you have chosen.
4. Which foods tasted sweet?
5. Name a food that is sour Draw a basket of fruit and label the fruits you have chosen.
6. We taste food with little things on our tongue called taste buds. Why did God give us taste buds?
7. What is your favourite food? How does it taste?



7 Fun with feelings

“Dad, where are you going?” called David.
“I’m going to the shed. You can come with me. I’m going to help Grandpa.”

The children ran along beside Dad to the shed.

“Shut your eyes, Sarah and give me your hand.”
There was a little lamb outside the shed. Dad put Sarah’s hand on the lamb’s back.

Sarah laughed. “Dad, I can feel something warm and soft and wooly. It must be a lamb.”

She opened her eyes.

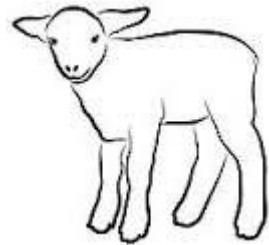
“Yes, it is!”

Sarah gently patted the little lamb’s soft wooly back.

Dad called to David. “Put your hand on this little calf, David. Shut your eyes. What do you feel?”

“It feels lovely and warm. It’s soft and silky.”

“Now, let’s find some more things that God has made. God gave us the sense of feeling to enjoy His world. He



also gave you feeling to keep you safe. See these thorns on this bush?”

” They are sharp,” said David. “Animals won’t eat that bush.”

He ran to another bush.

“Sarah, come and feel these shiny green and yellow leaves. They feel smooth but they are tough.”



Sarah saw another bush. “The leaves on this bush are soft and smooth like velvet,” she said. “David, feel the trunk of this tree. It’s all rough and bumpy. Now feel this tree trunk. Its bark feels smooth like paper.”

“Let’s take our sandals off, and paddle in the creek,” said David. “We can feel with our feet too. The water feels so cool and smooth. It tickles my toes when it runs over them.”

David looked at the muddy edge of the creek. “I wonder what that mud feels like.”

“It doesn’t look very nice to me,” said Sarah. “It feels funny at first, all squelchy. But it’s soft and smooth,” said David.

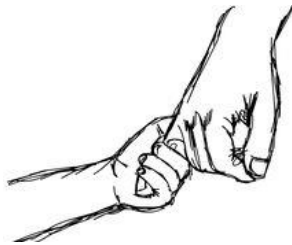
“Ouch!” said David. “I trod on a stone. It was sharp and hard. God gives me feelings to keep me safe.

Now let’s play in that dry sand. Let it run slowly through your fingers, Sarah. It feels soft and cool.”



Just then they heard Mum call, “David and Sarah, go and get Dad and Grandpa. Tell them to come and have tea with us in the garden.”

Sarah ran to Grandpa. She put her hand in his. “I love you Grandpa. Your hand feels so warm and strong and safe. Come on. Let’s go to the garden for tea.”



Fun with feelings: Activities

1. When Sarah felt the lamb she said it was ...
2. When David felt the calf he said it was ...
3. The leaves on the bushes felt ...
4. The water on the children’s feet felt ...
5. The mud felt ...
6. The stone felt ...
7. The sand felt ...
8. Why did God give us feelings?
9. Think of something else that feels:

sharp

smooth

soft

rough

8 A sea garden

Today Sarah and David are going to visit another garden. It's not a garden at Grandpa's farm. It's a garden by the sea. It's a sea garden in God's world.

"Come on David. Let's run down to the sand," said Sarah. Look at the sea. It is so blue. See the light of the sun on the sea. I'll race you into the water. Come on, run!"

David and Sarah ran down to the sand. They jumped in to the water.

"Sarah, look into the water. What can you see?"

"I can see fish - one, two, three. One fish is red. The other two are blue and yellow. See how the fish shine in the sunlight."

"Mum, come with us!" they said. "Come with us to see the fish."

Mum went with the children.

"God made the fish. He made the sea and sky and He made us," said Mum.

David and Sarah sat by a little pool.

"David, let's find things that God has made. I see a sea star. What can you find?" said Sarah.

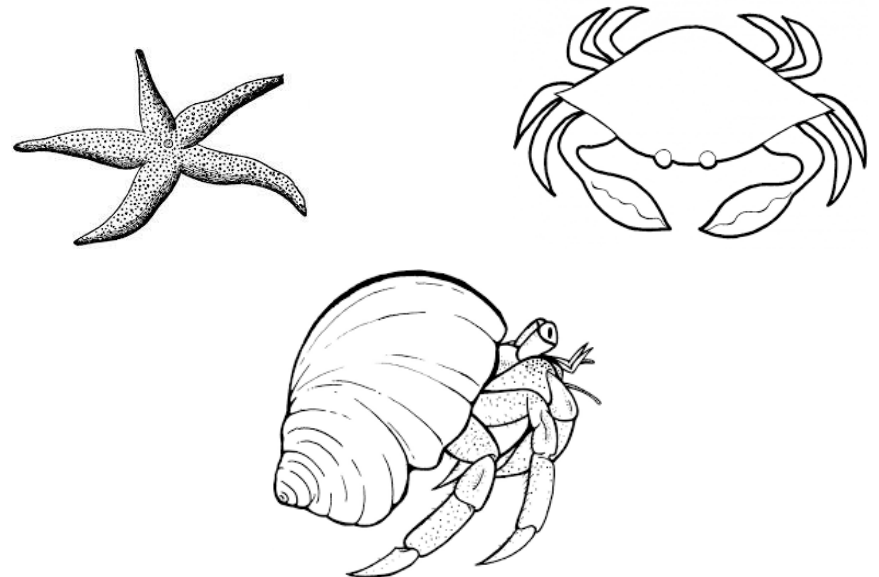
"I see rocks. I see seaweed on the rocks. Some seaweed is green. Some is brown and some is red," said David.

"Look at that Sarah! That's a little crab. It can run fast. Look! It has some food."

The children kept on looking. They found three more crabs and two more sea stars. One crab ran and hid under a rock.

"Sarah, look at that one! God has made a little house for that crab. He has a house on his back!"

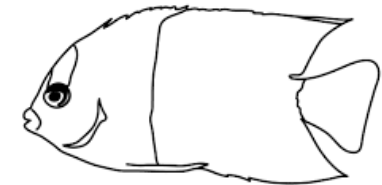
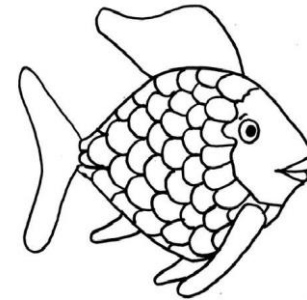
"That's a hermit crab," said Mum. Hermit crabs look for an old shell to use for their home.



A sea garden: Activities

1. What did the children do as soon as they arrived at the sea?
2. Draw the fish they saw. Use the right colours.
3. David and Sarah sat by the little pool. Write some words to rhyme with pool.
c _ _ _ t _ _ _ st _ _ _ sch _ _ _
4. Draw the things that David and Sarah saw in the rock pool: seaweed, sea stars, crabs and fish.
5. One crab has a shell on its back. It can hide in the shell. Draw the crab with the little house on its back.
6. Write the colours of the sea weed.

7. Why do you think the story is called “A sea garden”?



9 A day on a hill

It was Saturday. David and Sarah wanted to have some fun.

“Dad, will you take us up the hill today?” asked Sarah.
“Yes Dad,” said David. “May I take my kite with me?”

“Yes David,” said Dad. “That will be fun. Sarah, go and tell Mum that it is time to go!”

Sarah ran to tell Mum and David ran to get his kite. Then Dad, Mum, David and Sarah set out from home. Up the hill they went. At the top, they sat down for a rest. They could see many trees and flowers.

“Let’s play a game,” said Dad. “Let’s see how many colours God has in his world!”

“I see one,” said Sarah. “The sky is blue.”

“My turn,” said David. “The trees are green and so is the grass. There is not only one colour of green. I see lots of greens!”

“Your turn now Mum,” said Dad.

“See these little flowers. They are yellow and black.”

“Your turn Dad,” said David. “What can you see?”

“There are some tall pink flowers over there.”

“Now how many colours have we seen? Let’s count the colours,” said Sarah.

“A blue sky – one.
Green trees, green grass – two.
Little yellow and black flowers – three, four,
And Dad’s pink flowers, that makes five!”

The children got up and looked in the trees. They saw a bird. It was orange, blue, green, red and yellow.

“That’s a parrot,” said Dad. Now we have six colours we have seen – orange too.”

David ran on and found a good spot to fly his kite. He held the string of the kite, and away he ran. Up, up, up went the kite, up into the air. The kite had beautiful colours too - blue, green, pink and yellow.

“Sarah, would you like a turn?”

“Yes please,” said Sarah, and she took the string. “This is fun!”

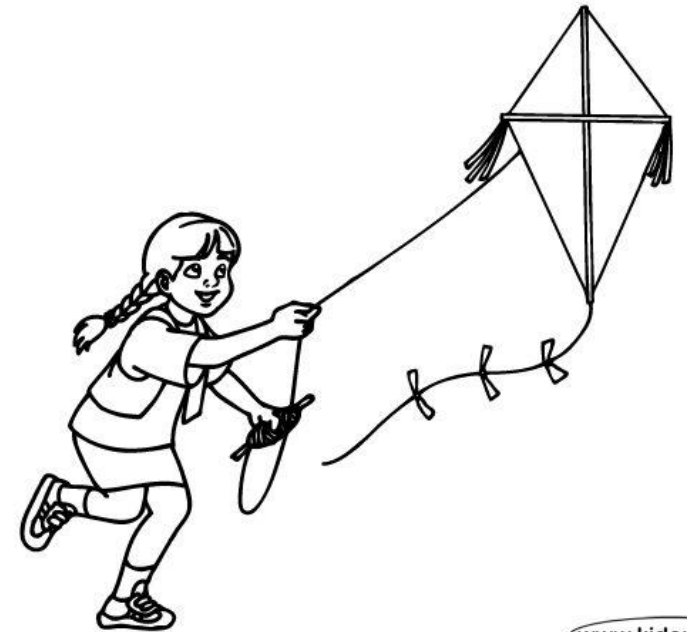
A day on the hill: Activities

1. Who went up the hill?
2. What did they see on the hill?
3. Finish the sentences:
They saw blue ...

They saw green ... and ...

They saw yellow and black ...

They saw pink ...
4. Draw the parrot with all its colours.
5. Draw the kite with all its colours.
6. Did David share his kite with Sarah?
7. What did the children learn about God's world?



10 The stream

“Lunch time, David and Sarah,” called Mum.

Who would like something to eat?”

“I would!” said Sarah.

“I would!” said David.

“I would! said Dad.

They quickly sat down and ate their food. They were very hungry.

“Now come on,” said Dad. “Let’s go down to the stream. Would you like to paddle in the water?”

“Yes please!” said the children. “We would love to paddle.”

So they took off their shoes and crept over the rocks into the cold water.

“Look at this little water fly,” called David. “It can skate on water! It has a pattern on its back too. I would like to know how it skates.”

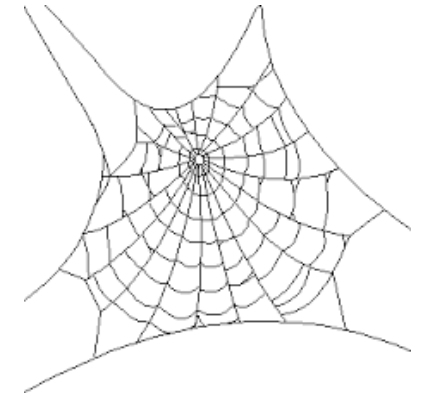
“I know,” said Dad. It has many little furry hairs under each foot. That is why its feet don’t sink.”

“God’s world is full of pattern,” said Mum Look at the water. See the pattern it makes when you drop a stone in?”

“That’s right,” said David. My stone made circles!”

“So did mine,” said Sarah.

“Dad, look at this pattern. It’s a spider’s web. See how it also has circles. See how it goes round and round?”

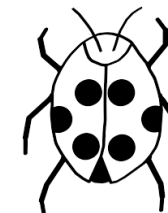


“God made the spider very clever,” said Dad. “See how her web hangs over the water to catch the flies and insects?”

Then Sarah found a beetle.

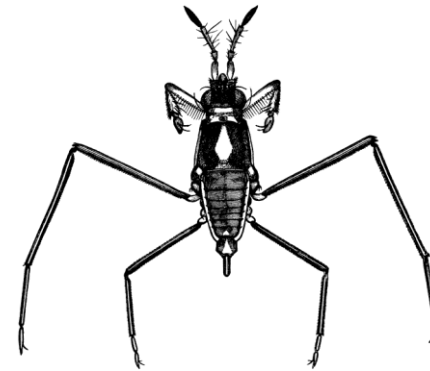
“Come and look at this pattern,” she called. It’s on a beetle. It has black spots on its red back.”

God love colours as well as patterns,” said Sarah.



The stream: Activities

1. Make a list of the things they might have had to eat for lunch.
2. What did the children do after they finished lunch?
3. Why doesn't the water fly sink when it skates on water?
4. Draw a water-fly on the water and show its feet.
5. Draw the pattern in the water made by the stone.
6. Draw the pattern of the spider's web.
7. Why does the spider hang her web over the water?
8. Draw the pattern on the beetle's back.



11 The Cave

The children had played in the stream for a long time. They had fun paddling in the water.

“Come now, children,” called Dad. “Let’s go up the other hill to the cave in the rocks.”

“So the children quickly put their shoes on, then they climbed slowly up the other hill. It was very steep and rocky. The ground outside the cave was dark and damp. There were ferns growing on both sides of the big rock walls.

“We will need a torch here,” said Dad. “It is very dark inside. Stay very close to me. Let your eyes become used to the darkness first.”

The cave was very deep, and they had to walk very carefully.

“Dad, look!” said David. “What are those strange things? Are they birds?”

David pointed at the roof of the cave.

“Oh no,” said Dad as he shone the torch. “Those are bats! They are rather like little mice with wings. See how

they hang upside down by their back feet! They come out at night to look for food.”

“What do they eat,” asked Sarah,

“They are very useful animals, Sarah,” said her father. “They eat many insects that would spoil our plants.”

“Sh! Let’s go quietly. We must not disturb the bats.”

So they tiptoed out into the bright sunshine of God’s beautiful world.

“Come on Sarah!” shouted David. “I’ll race you down to that big tree.” And off they ran.

When they got to the tree they waited for Mum and Dad.

That night, when the family had their prayer time they said:

“Thank you Lord for all the colours and patterns that make the world so beautiful. And thank you for our happy day.”



The cave: Activities

1. Draw the cave. Show the ferns growing on both sides of the big rock wall.
2. How would you feel going into the cave?
3. What do you need to help you see inside a dark cave?
4. Draw a bat.
5. Why are bats useful animals?
6. When you first walk into a dark cave you cannot see, but then your eyes get used to the _____.
7. What did the children notice about the light when they came out of the cave?
8. When David and Sarah prayed that night, they said _____ to God for making such a beautiful world for us to enjoy.

