

## Where do bugs like to live in your house?

14th November, 2017



Scientists have discovered where bugs most like to live in your house. There is a rich diversity of insects and other creepy-crawlies we share our homes with and they all have particular tastes regarding

accommodation. Researchers from universities in the USA and Denmark studied different physical factors in 50 houses to find out what affected where bugs lived. They discovered that the largest number of bugs generally reside in ground-level, carpeted rooms that have many windows. Lead author of the research, Dr Misha Leong, said: "We are just beginning to realize and study how the home we create for ourselves also builds a complex, indoor habitat for bugs and other life."

The researchers found that every room in a house offered differing ecological environments for bugs. They found that booklice, fruit flies and ladybugs preferred living rooms. Spiders, ants, centipedes and beetles were more likely to live in darker, damper places like basements. The researchers said there were many benefits of sharing our homes with insects and other bugs. They said many were essential for ensuring microbes we need to stay healthy are present in our homes. They also play an essential role in cleaning up microscopic waste we create. Dr Leong said: "We're hoping to better understand this age-old coexistence, and how it may impact our physical and mental well-being."

Sources: [eurekalert.org](http://eurekalert.org) / [upi.com](http://upi.com) / [uk.news.yahoo.com](http://uk.news.yahoo.com)

## Writing

We need a chemical to kill all bugs in the home forever. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / bugs / homes / tastes / accommodation / carpeted rooms / windows / life / researchers / environments / beetles / basements / benefits / microscopic / physical

## True / False

- a) The article says insects make us richer. T / F
- b) Researchers from universities in three countries conducted the research. T / F
- c) Researchers said most bugs lived in the kitchen. T / F
- d) A researcher said we are just beginning to understand bugs in the home. T / F
- e) Rooms in houses offer different environments to bugs. T / F
- f) Researchers said fruit flies prefer to live in kitchens. T / F
- g) Researchers said bugs in the house were important for our health. T / F
- h) A researcher wants to know more about how we live with bugs. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>rich</b>        | a. environment |
| 2. <b>diversity</b>   | b. effect      |
| 3. <b>tastes</b>      | c. probably    |
| 4. <b>reside</b>      | d. plentiful   |
| 5. <b>habitat</b>     | e. crucial     |
| 6. <b>likely</b>      | f. preferences |
| 7. <b>essential</b>   | g. part        |
| 8. <b>role</b>        | h. welfare     |
| 9. <b>impact</b>      | i. variety     |
| 10. <b>well-being</b> | j. live in     |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What insects do you dislike?
- c) Would you rather live with or without insects?
- d) What would happen to the world if insects disappeared?
- e) How can insects make us healthier?
- f) What is the coolest thing that insects do?
- g) What insect would be best for a superhero?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. where bugs most like to                      | a. have many windows     |
| 2. There is a rich diversity                    | b. tastes                |
| 3. they all have particular                     | c. waste we create       |
| 4. ground-level, carpeted rooms that            | d. for ourselves         |
| 5. study how the home we create                 | e. living rooms          |
| 6. fruit flies and ladybugs preferred           | f. live in your house    |
| 7. live in darker, damper                       | g. well-being            |
| 8. microbes we need                             | h. places like basements |
| 9. an essential role in cleaning up microscopic | i. of insects            |
| 10. it may impact our physical and mental       | j. to stay healthy       |

## Discussion – Student B

- What kind of bugs live in your house?
- How do you feel about insects in your house?
- What are your favourite insects and why?
- What are the most useless insects in the world?
- Why do so many people hate insects?
- What use are insects?
- What do you do when you see insects in your house?
- Why do different insects prefer different rooms in a house?

## Spelling

- There is a rich yrtidives of insects
- all have rriuatcpal tastes regarding accommodation
- find out what aceddftf where bugs lived
- the largest number of bugs nylarlgee reside
- We are just beginning to arielez
- a complex, indoor abtintah
- differing caoglicelo environments
- esecdnepit and beetles
- damper places like nasmetsbe
- They said many were esselitna
- cleaning up compicrosic waste
- understand this age-old ceextiesnoc

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. i	3. f	4. j	5. a
6. c	7. e	8. g	9. b	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Ants

You think ants are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects are not as useful. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): butterflies, spiders or bees.

### Role B – Butterflies

You think butterflies are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects are not as useful. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): ants, spiders or bees.

### Role C – Spiders

You think spiders are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects are not as useful. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): butterflies, ants or bees.

### Role D – Bees

You think bees are the most useful insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects are not as useful. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): butterflies, spiders or ants.

## Speaking – Useful insects

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful insects at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • bees        | • ants        |
| • worms       | • butterflies |
| • ladybugs    | • cockroaches |
| • dragonflies | • spiders     |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.