

# MY SECRET GARDEN

Would you like to create a secret garden? It's an imaginary green space where lots of wild Irish animals live. A healthy happy imagination needs a good mix of ideas.

A healthy happy green space, such as a garden, park, woodland, river bank or even a hedge, needs a mix of wild plants, animals, birds and insects - this is called biodiversity.

Can you picture your secret garden? Let your imagination go wild! It can be whatever you dream up! Start by answering the questions below.

Name

.....

## What is in your imaginary garden? (Circle your answers)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Flowers      | A pond     |
| Hedges       | Bird table |
| Trees        | Vegetables |
| A river bank | A bat box  |
| A bug hotel  | Log pile   |

Other: .....

## What Irish animals live in your secret garden? (Circle your answers)

- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Magpie    | Fly       | Woodlouse |
| Tadpole   | Squirrel  | Ant       |
| Worm      | Fox       | Hedgehog  |
| Spider    | Robin     | Pigeon    |
| Butterfly | Blackbird |           |
| Beetle    | Slug      |           |

Other: .....

## What is your favourite Irish animal that lives in your secret garden?

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## Is your favourite Irish animal also in the Museum? (Circle your answer)

- Yes      No      Not sure, it might be hiding!

**Don't Forget!** Take a 3D Virtual Tour of the ground floor of the Museum, the Irish Room, to find the animals you would like in your secret garden!

[www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Visitor-Information/3D-Virtual-Visit](http://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Visitor-Information/3D-Virtual-Visit)

Draw your favourite  
Irish animal in the  
box - don't forget to  
colour it in!

Is your animal bigger  
than you?

**(Circle your answer)**

Yes    No

Does your animal have:

**(Circle your answers)**

Teeth

Paws

Legs

Beak

Fins

Eyes

Feathers

Tail

Shell

Wings

Claws

Webbed Feet

Hair

Scales

Spikes

A favourite garden animal is an insect called a ladybird.

Do you remember what they look like? Read on and finish the picture below!



Next time you visit the Museum find the ladybirds and other insects in the table cabinets at the back of the Irish Room on the Ground Floor.

How many legs does the ladybird have?

**(Circle your answer)**

2 4 6 8 10

(Hint: read below)

How many spots should we give the ladybird?

**(Circle your answer)**

2 4 6 8 10

(Hint: read below)

Do you like insects?

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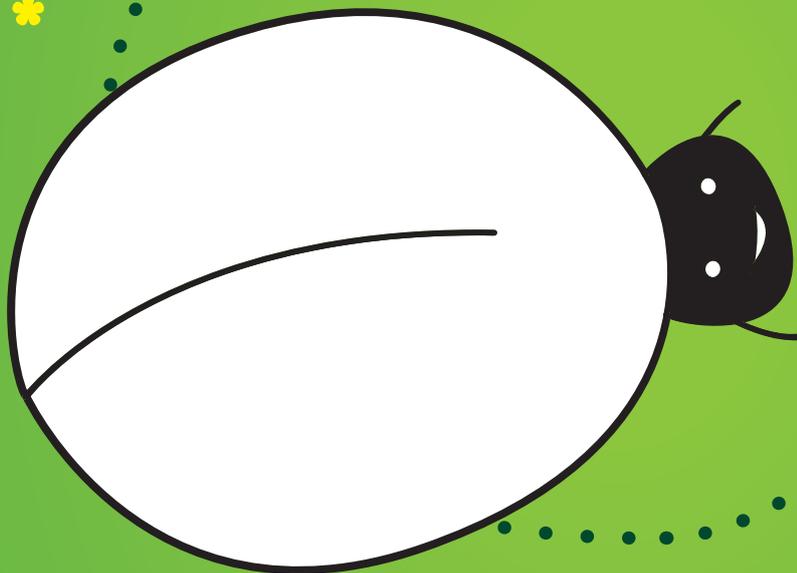
Why?

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My Ladybird's name is

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### Did you know?

All insects - big, small and tiny, have 6 legs! Ladybirds can have from 2 to 24 spots - Irish ladybirds usually have 2 or 7 spots. Ladybirds are not just red - they can be orange and yellow too, or black with red spots! The reason they are so colourful is to warn birds that they taste HORRIBLE!



Finally, where in your secret garden  
can you find your favourite animal?

**Draw and colour in your secret garden  
and then circle your answer.**

Well done on completing  
your imaginary secret  
garden! Remember, the more  
biodiversity the better!

“If you look the right way,  
you can see that the whole  
world is a garden.”

Frances Hodgson Burnett,  
The Secret Garden (1911)

Why not try the worksheets in the National Museum  
of Ireland, Archaeology; Decorative Arts and History;  
and Country Life

For more information on exhibitions and  
education programmes check out our website:  
[www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History](http://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History)

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