

# NATURE

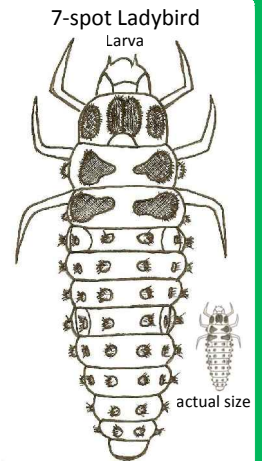
## IN MY GARDEN - LADYBIRDS



Ladybirds are a very popular garden insect. In Ireland we have 20 types (species) of ladybird. A ladybird is a beetle. They mostly eat aphids like greenfly which makes them the gardener's best friend.

Insects come in all shapes and sizes and they all have certain things in common. All insects have 3 main body parts and 6 legs. Bees, butterflies, ants and ladybirds are some of our best known insects.

Most insects go through a process called metamorphosis where the young insect (larva) completely changes in order to become an adult. Ladybirds go through this process and the larva is very different to the adult. Ladybird larvae have big appetites and mostly eat aphids as well.

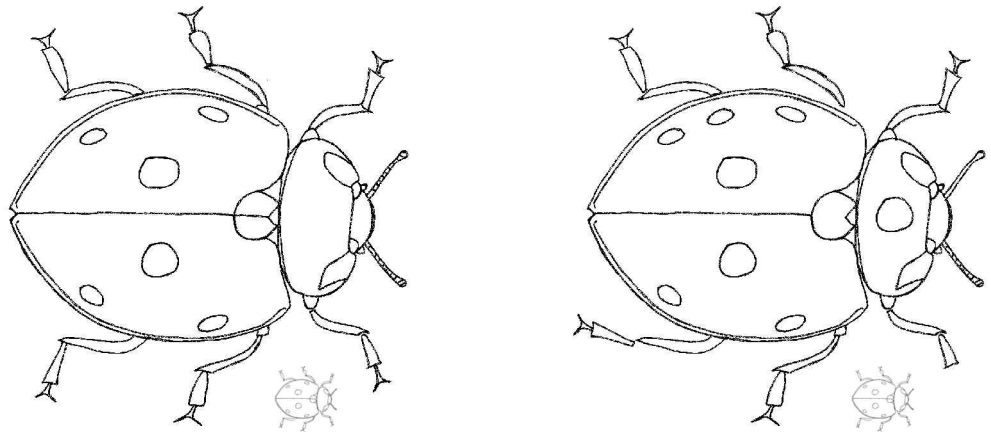


Why not colour it in!

### TO DO:

- Crawl around on your hands and knees. You are a ladybird larva. Now try and catch Mam or Dad, your aphid food. They are on their hands and knees too!
- Make a bug hotel in your garden. A pile of sticks is a good start. Look online for some amazing ideas.
- Search through your garden looking for ladybirds. See if there are larvae there too, now you know what to look for!

This is the adult 7-spot ladybird - Can you spot the 7 differences between the two Pictures  
9 of our 20 species of Ladybird are named after the number of spots they have



Hint: Colouring them in might help!

### ONLINE NATURE:

wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie  
 biodiversity.ie      mountaineering.ie  
 birdwatchireland.ie   npws.ie  
 met.ie                  orienteering.ie  
 mothsireland.com      wildflowersofireland.net

Pretend you are a ladybird. Write down or draw pictures of the 3 things that are most important to you

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



An Roinn Cultúir,  
 Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
 Department of Culture,  
 Heritage and the Gaeltacht

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiunta & Fiadhúlra  
 National Parks & Wildlife Service