

# Ladybirds

Ladybirds are a kind of beetle. They have a hard shell which they can open up to let out their wings. Ladybirds' shells are normally red or orange with black spots. They have four wings altogether.



## How Do Ladybirds Defend Themselves?

Ladybirds have a couple of tricks to keep themselves safe.

- First of all, their bright colours let other animals know that they are not tasty and not worth eating.
- Ladybirds are able to do something pretty amazing. They can bleed from their knees. This liquid smells horrible and is poisonous to any animals that eat it.

## Did You Know?

Most people believe that you can tell a ladybird's age by how many spots it has. This isn't true. Their spots actually tell you what kind of ladybirds they are.

## Top Ladybird Facts

- Ladybirds don't smell with their noses but with their feet.
- Their jaws don't chew up and down but side to side.
- When ladybirds get older, their spots and their colours start to fade.

## A Final Fact

In many countries around the world, it is believed to be bad luck to kill a ladybird so be careful where you are walking!

# Questions About Ladybirds

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Finish this sentence:

Ladybirds are a kind of \_\_\_\_\_

beetle

caterpillar

2. How many wings does a ladybird have?

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3. What do the number of spots on a ladybird tell us?

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4. What do ladybirds use to smell?

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5. What is it bad luck to do?

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6. What is your favourite fact about ladybirds?

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# Questions About Ladybirds

## Answers

1. Finish this sentence:

**Ladybirds are a kind of beetle.**

2. How many wings does a ladybird have?

**A ladybird has four wings.**

3. What do the number of spots on a ladybird tell us?

**The number of spots tell us what kind of ladybird it is.**

4. What do ladybirds use to smell?

**Ladybirds use their feet to smell.**

5. What is it bad luck to do?

**Some people believe it is bad luck to kill a ladybird.**

6. What is your favourite fact about ladybirds?

**Answers will vary.**