



All about Ticks Word Search

Find the 12 words in the word search below after you have finished reading the booklet!

H D G S K C E H C Y S X P V W
 I F R B Z S M A M M A L S N X
 K U M F A E W O P X M N M A G
 I H H E O L Q N X G R B L K Z
 N G S Q O R S S S S L B V D F
 G I P X B P E I D R R F R R M
 D B W E R M M S A E E A P M M
 G K V A T H M E T E I S S I T
 G Y Y B L S O Z H D W H K T W
 L P I E U Y M U J J Y R F V Z
 I D M N U M Y G Z B I P X X W
 D Y C I C J X N Q U F Y L I M
 L N T I C K Y O N G V N Z I W
 M E S B H Y G F V U P W D Z P
 U Q Q H Y S E Q G Z S B G Q I

BUG
 CHECK
 DEER
 DISEASE
 FOREST
 HIKING
 LYME
 MAMMALS
 PETS
 SPRAY
 SUNNY
 TICK





Ticks Shapes and Sizes

Ticks are closely related to spiders. Ticks come in different shapes, colours and sizes depending on their age, sex and whether they have been feeding. Ticks feed on the blood of animals, including humans. They cannot fly or jump and they move quite slowly so ticks usually come in contact with people or animals in tall grass and bushes.

Did you know that adult ticks become bigger as they feed and can grow from the size of a **sesame seed** to as **large as a grape**?

The picture below shows female adult **deer ticks** at different feeding stages (number of hours feeding).



Photo: Government of Canada

Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks below using the terms from the Word Box.

1. There are _____ main types of ticks found in Ontario.
2. Ticks like to live in _____ or _____ areas.
3. Ticks can grow from the size of a _____ seed to as large as a _____.
4. _____ ticks can spread Lyme disease. They do not have any _____ markings on their back
5. Walking in the _____ of a clear path in the woods is a good way to prevent ticks from crawling onto you.
6. If you find a tick on your body at school, do not touch the tick and go tell your _____.
7. Ticks feed off of the _____ of animals, including humans.
8. Put on _____ spray and _____ coloured clothing before going outside to prevent tick bites.
9. Do a “_____ check” after playing in areas that may have ticks.
10. Ticks do not usually like to live in _____ and _____ places.

Word Box

white	teacher	middle
sesame	deer	body
blood	light	sunny
bug	grassy	grape
dry	two	wooded

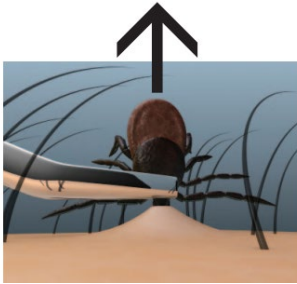


What If I Get Bit by a Tick?

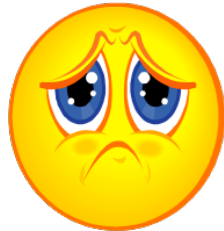
Most tick bites are painless so they can be difficult to notice. Ticks feed on blood by inserting their mouthparts (not their whole bodies) into the skin of a person, or an animal.

If you find a tick on your body:

- 1) **Do not touch** the tick.
- 2) Go and **tell your teacher**, parent or a trusted adult.
- 3) Have them **remove the tick** properly using fine-tipped tweezers as shown below.



If you start to feel unwell with a fever or rash in the weeks after being bit by a **deer tick** go and see a doctor.



Ticks & Lyme Disease

In Ontario, there are two main types of ticks. These pictures have been made bigger to help you see their colours. In reality ticks are very small!

Adult Deer Ticks



Male

Female

These are blacklegged ticks (also known as **deer ticks**). They can carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. The bacteria is normally carried by mice, squirrels, birds and other small animals.

Adult Dog Ticks



Male

Female

These are **American dog ticks**. They are not known to spread Lyme disease.

Tick Images Source: URI TickEncounter Resource Center

One of the easiest ways to tell the difference between a deer tick and a dog tick is to look at the markings in its back. Adult **deer ticks** do not have any **white markings** on their back and adult **dog ticks** do.



Where Ticks Live

Ticks like to live in **grassy** or **wooded areas** and on **animals**. Taking part in activities in these areas such as walking your dog, camping, or hiking could bring you in close contact with ticks.

Places Ticks Like:

- ✓ Forests
- ✓ Tall Grass
- ✓ Leaf Piles
- ✓ The Fur of Mammals

Places Ticks **DO NOT** Usually Like:

- ✗ Sunny & Dry Places
- ✗ Bodies of Water
- ✗ Places with Short Cut Grass

Place a checkmark in the box for each image below that shows a place where ticks might live.



Fight the Bite!

Take these steps to prevent Lyme Disease:

Wear **bug spray** that contains **DEET** or Icaridin.



Stay in the **middle** of a clear path when hiking to avoid coming in contact with ticks.



Wear long-sleeved **light coloured** clothing. Tuck your shirt into your pants and your pants into your socks to prevent ticks from attaching to your skin.



After spending time outdoors in areas where ticks might live, do a **“tick check”**. Check your entire body with special attention to these areas for ticks:

