

HIDE-AND-SEEK TICKS

INFO



AGES 6-7



LOCATION
In a room



DURATION
15 minutes



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
Moderate

OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

To help children understand that ticks are tiny and can be hard to spot.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the group in half.
- Divide the room in half, each group takes one side of the room.
- Give each child a small button or other craft material representing a tick.
- Each child hides a tick in their own area.
- It can be hidden on the floor, chairs, or desks, but not too high.
- Tell the children to remember their hiding spot.
- Once all the ticks have been hidden, each group looks for the other group's ticks in the other area.
- The team that finds the most ticks is declared the winner.

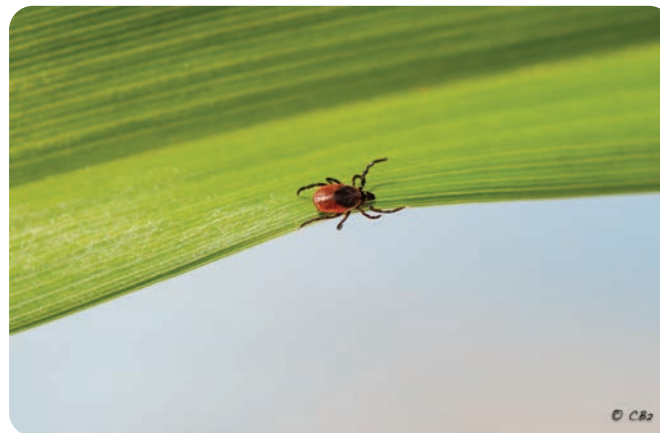


Photo credit - Catherine Bouchard,
Public Health Agency of Canada (CB2)

MATERIALS



- *What is a tick?* illustration
- Small buttons or other craft materials to represent ticks
- Photo of a blacklegged tick



BEFORE YOU START

Using the *What is a tick?* illustration,

Explain that ticks go through four life stages:

- egg
- larva
- nymph
- adult

To develop from one stage to the next, ticks must feed on blood.

- Draw or use objects to show the different sizes of the tick as it goes through the life stages, from smallest to largest. Exact size is not necessary.

Using the image of the tick in the grass:

- Explain that ticks don't jump or fly. They wait to crawl onto an animal or human to attach and feed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explain that:

- Ticks can be found outside of rural areas—in cities, suburbs, playgrounds and even backyards.
- Ticks are often found in and near areas with trees, shrubs, tall grass, or piles of leaves.

Show video:

 [How to reduce ticks around your home](#)

Test their knowledge:

 [Interactive games](#)



ENJOY THE OUTDOORS,
WITHOUT A TICK!



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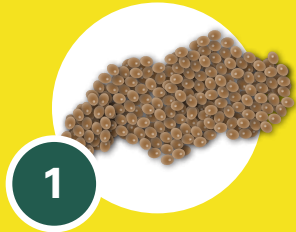


WHAT IS A TICK?

TICKS GO THROUGH **FOUR** LIFE STAGES:

▶ A tick is a tiny bug that feeds on the blood of people and animals.
▶ You might not notice a tick bite because ticks are very small and their bites don't usually hurt.

Ticks need blood to go from one life stage to the next.



1

EGG

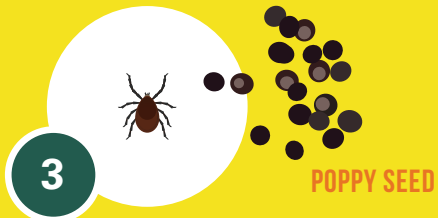
An egg hatches and becomes a larva.



2

LARVA

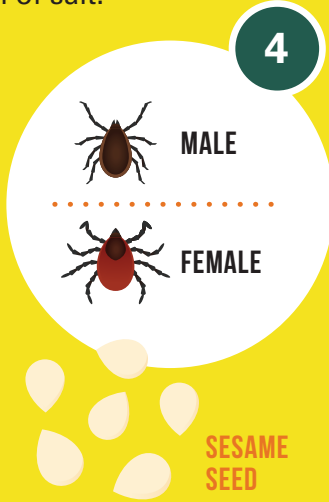
A larva is about the size of a grain of salt. Larvae are six-legged.



3

NYMPH

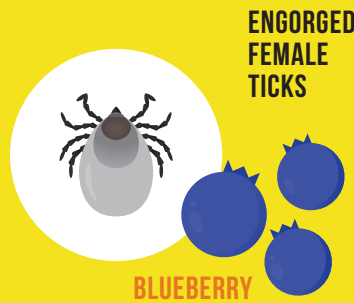
A nymph grows into an adult tick. A nymph is about the size of a poppy seed.



4

ADULT

An adult tick is about the size of a sesame seed. Adult female ticks need blood to be able to lay eggs. Adult male ticks feed on blood but do not need as much because they do not lay eggs.



ENGORGED FEMALE TICKS

Adult engorged female ticks can grow quite large, depending on how long they have been feeding. Engorged adult female ticks can be the size of a blueberry.