

Ladybirds are insects that belong to the beetles family, which love to live in gardens, parks, woods and fields where there is longer grass or crops.

There are actually over 46 different types of ladybirds living in the United Kingdom and not all of them are bright and spotty.



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1. Which word in the text describes the name of the family that ladybirds belong to? Tick **one** box.

spiders

butterflies

beetles

worms

.....
2. How many different types of ladybirds live in the UK? Tick **one** box.

over 46

over 12

over 52

over 5

1 mark

1 mark

Ladybirds are known as a gardener's best friend because they love to eat insects called aphids (greenflies) or scale insects. Both the aphids and scale insects eat plants in gardens and this is why so many people love to see ladybirds. The seven-spot ladybird can eat 5000 aphids during its lifespan!



3. Why are ladybirds known as 'a gardener's best friend'?

1 mark

If they feel threatened, ladybirds will bleed from their knees as a warning to predators. The yellow blood is called "reflex blood." It has a strong, horrible smell and taste. Ladybirds also stay safe by having bright colours which warn potential enemies that ladybirds are not at all tasty.



4. Give **two** things ladybirds do to protect themselves.

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

According to an old legend from about 500 years ago, in some parts of the world aphids were sucking the juices from farmers' grape vines. The Catholic farmers prayed to Mary, Jesus's mother, for help. Soon the ladybirds came and ate the aphids. The farmers thought their prayers had been answered so they named the helpful beetles after Mary, who is also known as 'Our Lady'. The second part of their name - bird - was given because they can fly like a bird, so they ended up with the name ladybird!



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5. Why were ladybirds given the second part of their name - 'bird'?

1 mark