

# HIDDEN HOUSEMATES: GETTING TO KNOW NATURE IN OUR HOMES


Is that little piece of paint from the wall moving? Who cleans up the crumbs from my kitchen while I'm asleep at night? Who lives in that little white tent in the corner of the wall?

Have you been asking yourself questions like these?


There is a lot of biodiversity that lives peacefully with us in our homes, balconies, gardens, and walls. The lockdown last year gave us the opportunity to spend time with them, and we discovered a new way to engage with nature.

But, first, what is 'nature'? Where can you find the natural world? Do you always need to go to faraway forests to experience the wonders of nature?








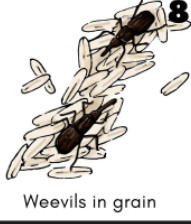
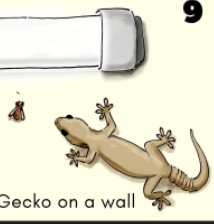
By looking under a table, behind a picture frame, following a persistent sound or even peering into a bag of grains, you can find a whole new habitat to explore! Discovering, observing, and documenting these 'hidden housemates' can be very exciting.



## Hidden Housemates (1)



Look around your home, through a window, behind a door or under a flowerpot - find any three down or across and say **BINGO!**

 <b>1</b> Bird song	 <b>2</b> Clouds that look like animals	 <b>3</b> Insects around a lightbulb
 <b>4</b> Trees wearing new colours	 <b>5</b> Daddy long legs spider/cobweb weaver	 <b>6</b> A book with a silverfish
 <b>7</b> Fruit flies	 <b>8</b> Weevils in grain	 <b>9</b> Gecko on a wall



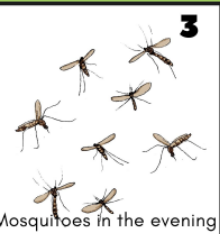



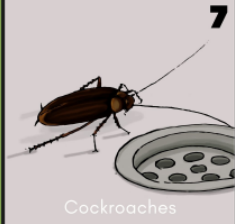
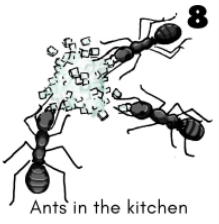
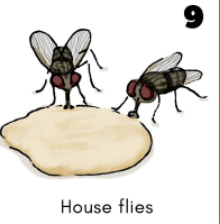
We have created a set of three Bingo sheets and activities that anyone can download, print, or even draw in their notebook to learn more about nature in and around their homes. These sheets can be found here: <https://www.ncf-india.org/blog/hidden-housemates-part-1>. Each sheet will introduce you to nine of these hidden housemates. You can go looking for them in your own space using the illustrated bingo sheet as your guide.

Once you find them, you may have more questions about who they are, or why they behave a certain way. You can discover more about each of them in their Bingo sheet, through a list of specially curated resources and activities for all ages. In addition to the English versions, modified editions of the activity sheets are also available in Kannada and Hindi.

Get ready to take a walk, look out of your window, or peer under a pot and get to know your hidden housemates!



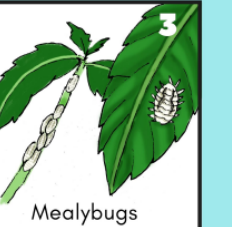
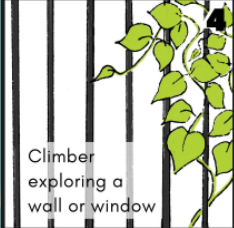
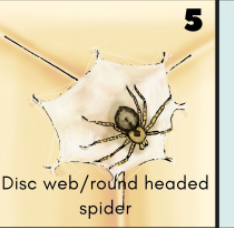
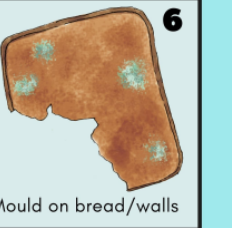


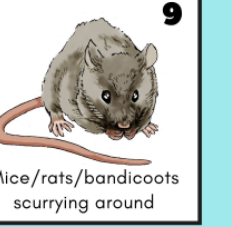
## Hidden Housemates (2)

Look around your home, through a window, behind a door or under a flowerpot - find any three down or across and say **BINGO!**

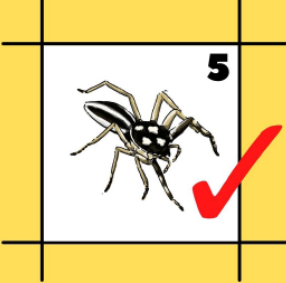
 <p><b>1</b> Bird on a pole/wire</p>	 <p><b>2</b> Nature motifs and patterns</p>	 <p><b>3</b> Mosquitoes in the evening</p>
 <p><b>4</b> Leaves fluttering and falling in the wind</p>	 <p><b>5</b> Jumping spider</p>	 <p><b>6</b> An insect in a sleeping bag</p>
 <p><b>7</b> Cockroaches</p>	 <p><b>8</b> Ants in the kitchen</p>	 <p><b>9</b> House flies</p>

## Hidden Housemates (3)

Look around your home, through a window, behind a door or under a flowerpot - find any three down or across and say **BINGO!**

 <p><b>1</b> Squirrel calling</p>	 <p><b>2</b> A book or story about nature</p>	 <p><b>3</b> Mealybugs</p>
 <p><b>4</b> Climber exploring a wall or window</p>	 <p><b>5</b> Disc web/round headed spider</p>	 <p><b>6</b> Mould on bread/walls</p>
 <p><b>7</b> Wasps</p>	 <p><b>8</b> Lizard/bird poop</p>	 <p><b>9</b> Mice/rats/bandicoots scurrying around</p>

**5.**

 <p><b>5</b></p>	<p>Imagine if you had 8 eyes, 8 legs like a spider. How would your life change? Would you have to get new spectacles? What would your clothes look like? Make a drawing or a comic.</p>
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Nature Classrooms works with schools and educators to connect learning to the natural world. Its team consists of Vena Kapoor, Roshni Ravi and Labonie Roy, who develop culturally relevant and robust nature learning resources, which correspond to the primary school environmental studies curricula. They also engage in capacity building for teachers and educators.