



Photos: Kristine Webber

Using simple materials that you likely already have in your kitchen, you can create an edible trap for small garden creatures. See who comes to dine in your tuberous trap!

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- » a large potato
- » toothpicks
- » a knife and spoon
- » garden spade
- » an outdoor spot to place your potato trap

### WHAT TO DO

1. Using your knife, carefully cut the potato in half lengthwise (ask an adult for help).
2. Carve out the middle of each potato half with your spoon, just like carving a pumpkin.
3. Put the hollowed-out potato halves back together using the toothpicks.
4. Make a small hole at each end of the potato so that creatures can go in and out.
5. Using your garden spade, dig a shallow hole outside and sink the potato half in the ground horizontally so that the holes are just above the soil surface.
6. The bugs will crawl in through the holes. Check your potato each day for four days and see what you catch. Record your findings by sketching in a nature journal or by taking photographs.

**TO THINK ABOUT & WONDER** What kinds of creatures came to your potato? Were they all the same type? Why do you think they were attracted to the potato? What is a decomposer? Do you think all the creatures you observed were decomposers? Your potato trap likely caught some 'sow bugs' or 'pill bugs'. Although we call them 'bugs' these aren't actually bugs at all but are terrestrial (or land) crustaceans (lobsters and shrimp are sea crustaceans!).

**Extension:** Download the Life in the Leaf Litter ID card from NatureKids BC at [ecoparent.ca/extras/FALL18](http://ecoparent.ca/extras/FALL18). Are any of the creatures you found in your potato on this card?

**The Exploration Club for Families...** NatureKids BC helps children get outdoors to play, imagine and explore in nearby nature. Join a family nature club near you or become a free-range member. Find out more at: [naturekidsbc.ca](http://naturekidsbc.ca). If you are already a member you can use this activity as part of your Action Awards Quest!

