

# IMAGO RANGERS

## Day 5: Pillbugs

### Pillbug Fast Facts

Pillbugs are one of my favorite creatures! Did you know that pillbugs aren't bugs or even insects- they are actually **crustaceans**! That means that pillbugs have more in common with animals like lobsters and crayfish than insects. Crustaceans are part of a group of animals called **arthropods**. Pillbugs have hard, segmented shells that help protect them from animals that may think they're a tasty treat!



### What do Pillbugs Do?

Pillbugs have a very important job, they are **decomposers**. That means that they help break down plants that have died and are decaying by eating them. Pillbugs are also **herbivores** which means that they eat plants that are alive too.



### Where to Find Pillbugs

Another reason why pillbugs are awesome is that they are easy to find! You can find pillbugs chilling under logs, rocks, leaves, mulch, or even pieces of bark. Pillbugs like to live anywhere that is wet and dark. When you find a pillbug it is totally ok to pick it up and hold it. Just make sure you are gentle with your new **arthropod** friend.



### Make your own Pillbug Hotel

Pillbugs are fun creatures to observe and investigate! Once you have found a pillbug friend or two, you can get up close and personal with them by making your very own pillbug hotel. All you need is a container, like a plastic container or a baby food jar and some nature to put inside. Having some sticks, leaves, and soil in your pillbug hotel will make your guests' stay much more comfortable and relaxing. Make sure you release your hotel guests back into their natural habitat when you are done hanging out!



### Off to the Races!

A fun event you can create for your pillbug buddies is a pillbug race! You can make the track with sidewalk chalk on the sidewalk outside, or you can use cardboard to put together a race track for your **crustacean** friends! To help your pillbugs run the track I recommend having a light at the start of your track and a nice dark place for them to get to at the finish. Pillbugs like dark places so they'll "run" from the light and over to the dark.



### Journal Prompt

Pretend you're a pillbug and write a letter to your family back home all about your stay at your pillbug hotel!

**Share your Pillbug Hotels and Racetracks** with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

**Tomorrow's Theme:** Salamanders!

**Time to explore!**

**Miss Sara**, Imago Head Ranger