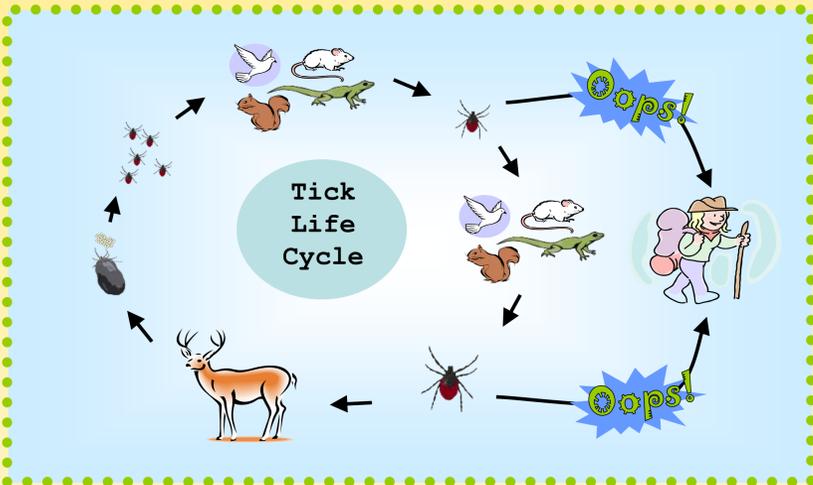


In nature ticks bite animals.



- Baby ticks feed on small animals. Can you find the 5 baby ticks ("larva") in the picture above? *Hint- they have 6 legs.
- After the larva suck blood, they become a larger tick, called a nymph. Nymphs have 8 legs.
- Nymphs suck blood from another small animal.
- After the nymphs eat, they become adult ticks. Adult ticks look just like nymphs, but bigger.
- Adult ticks like to suck blood from deer. When ticks suck blood, their bodies expand and they look like a raisin with legs.
- When an adult tick is done feeding, it will lay eggs. The eggs will hatch into larva ticks and start the cycle all over again.
- **Oops!** Sometimes nymphs and adult ticks accidentally bite a person instead of an animal.

Protect yourself from ticks!

When you hike, camp or play where ticks are found:



- Wear bug spray.
- Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt.
- Stay on trails when you hike.
- Check for ticks while you hike AND after you come back inside.
- Take a shower to help wash off ticks.

Timothy is sure to follow these tips to avoid getting bitten by ticks

Ticks are small spider-like creatures



This is a picture of three different sizes of ticks on a person's finger.

They feed by attaching to animals and sucking blood.

If you find a tick stuck to your body:

Remove it quickly and properly. An adult can help you get the tick out of your skin with tweezers.

How to remove a tick:



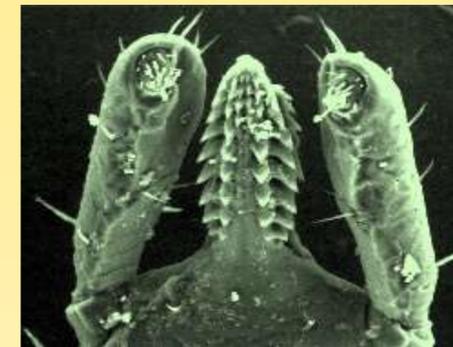
1. Grab the tick close to your skin with the tweezers or a tissue and pull straight out.
2. Wash where the tick bit you.
3. Wash your hands.
4. If you get sick after a tick bite you should go to the doctor.



California Department of Public Health
Vector-Borne Disease Section



Can you guess what this is?



- A) A cactus garden
- B) A saw and some logs
- C) A tick's teeth really, really close up

Timothy Tickfinder and his dog Bullseye



Ticks are found in the forest or wild, grassy areas, especially alongside trails.

Ticks wait at the end of a piece of grass or on logs until an animal or person brushes against them.

After ticks get on an animal or a person they look for a good hiding place and so it is hard to see them.

Ticks bite and suck blood.

Some ticks give germs to people and pets that can make them sick.

Check for ticks!

After you go for a hike, or everyday if there are ticks where you play:



- Check everyone in your family for ticks.
- Look hard to find them because ticks are very tiny, especially the small nymph ticks.
- Ask your parents or another adult to help you do a tick check.
- Check your pets very carefully. Ticks can be hard to see on animals with dark fur.



Timothy checks himself, Bullseye and other members of his family for ticks regularly.