

Ladybird Counting

Did you know that there are over 40 species of ladybird found in the UK?

As well as native ladybird species, the invasive harlequin ladybird is now found in the UK too. Harlequin ladybirds are from Asia, but they have been introduced to new countries after being imported accidentally among flowers, fruit and vegetables. Some are also thought to have reached the UK by flying across the English Channel.

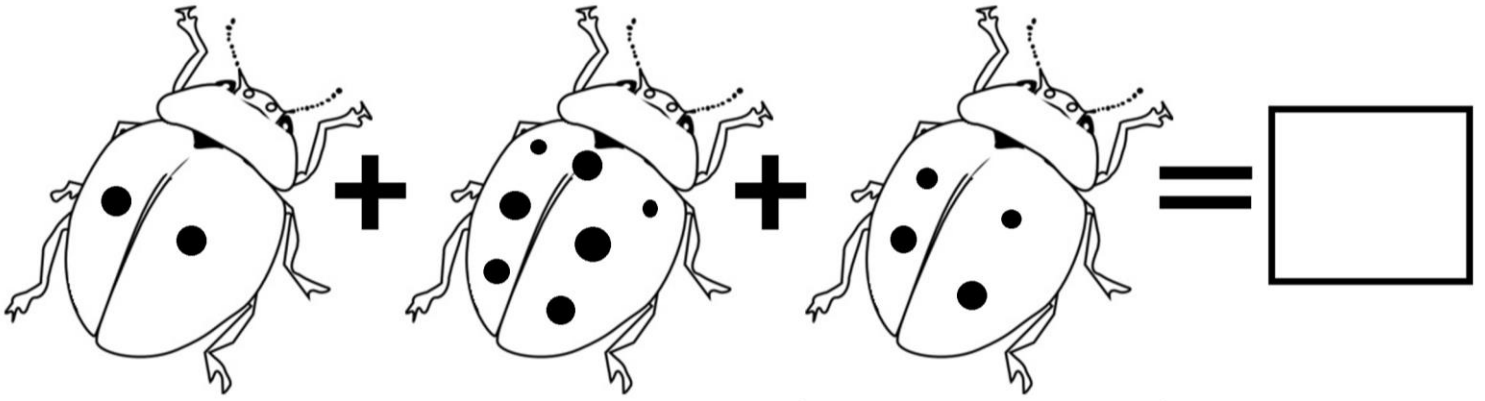
The harlequin ladybird is a real problem for our native ladybirds, competing with them for food and directly feeding on them.

It can be hard to spot harlequin ladybirds, as they can be different colours and have lots of different numbers of spots, with up to 21 in total. All of these pictures show harlequin ladybirds!

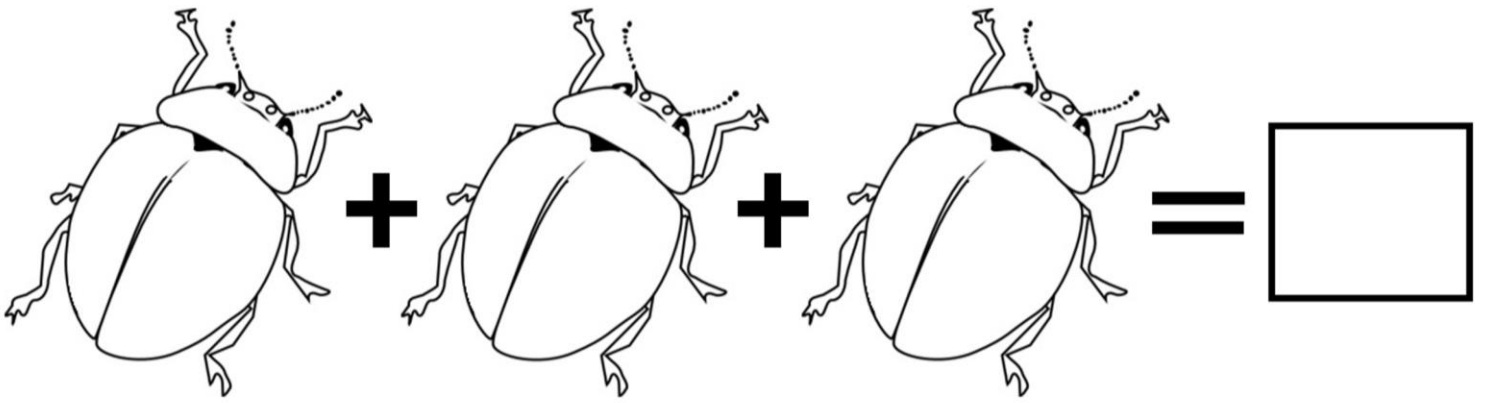


The most common forms of harlequin ladybird seen in the UK are black with 2 or 4 orange or red spots, or orange with between 15 and 21 black spots. See if you can spot one of these on the next page!

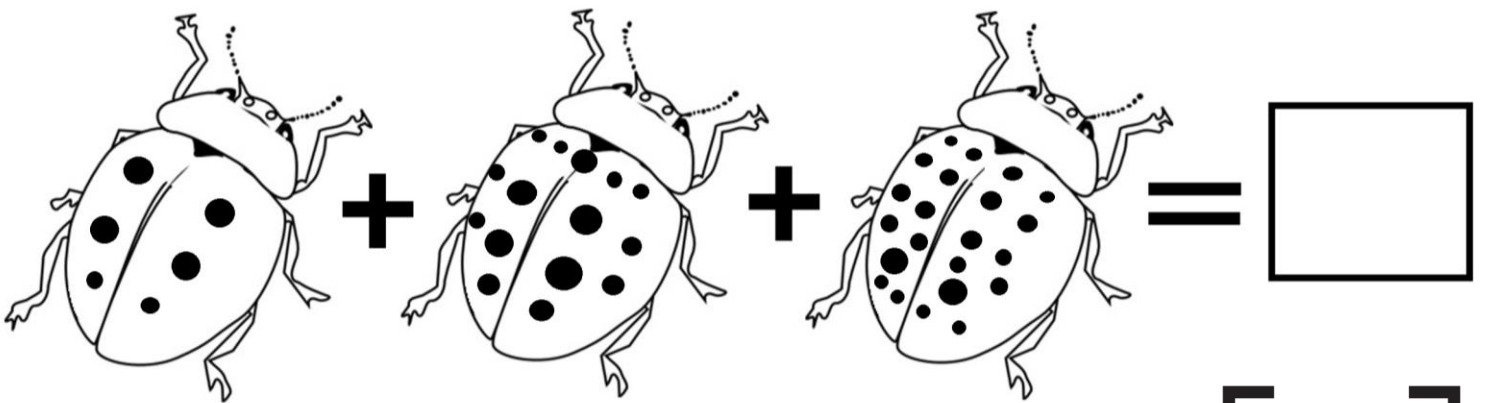
1. Count how many spots each ladybird has, then add them up!



2. Draw the right number of spots for each species and then add them up!



3. Circle the invasive harlequin ladybird, then add up the spots!



Now it is time to colour your ladybirds in!