



# Fighting Pests with the 3 P's

Many scientists are trying to find ways to fight pests. One way is to use pests of pests, or the three P's!

**Predators** hunt and kill pests for food.

**Parasites** live on or inside pests and also may kill them.

**Pathogens** cause disease in pests. Pathogens are germs like bacteria or viruses.

## The 3 P's in Action

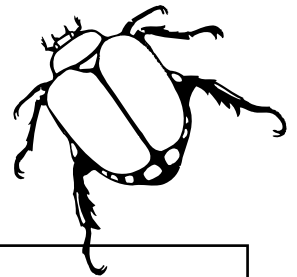
In the examples below, which of the 3 P's is fighting pests?

1 Camp Snoopy at the Mall of America had a pest problem. Tiny insects called scales were harming the plants. Poison insect killers (insecticides) could harm other creatures in Camp Snoopy. They might make people sick or make the park smelly. A tiny stingless wasp was put to work. This wasp lays its eggs inside the pesty scales. Wasp larvae hatch and grow inside the scales. That kills the scales.



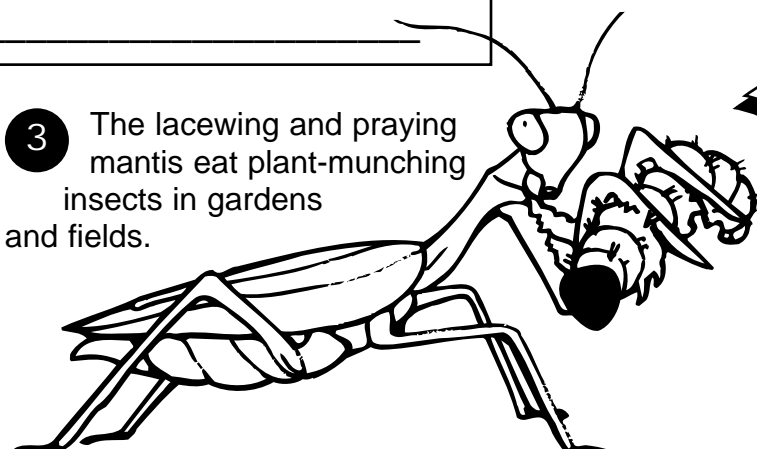
P \_\_\_\_\_

2 Japanese beetles have invaded Minnesota. They eat plant roots and leaves. They can kill bushes, trees, grasses, and garden and field crops. Now a germ is on the job. It causes a disease that kills the Japanese beetle.



P \_\_\_\_\_

3 The lacewing and praying mantis eat plant-munching insects in gardens and fields.



P \_\_\_\_\_



Imagine you are one of the 3 P's. Make a poster to advertise yourself.

