

In addition to the PowerPoint version of this information, NJDOH is providing a document with the suggestion of printing and laminating it to be shared more closely with the students. For each set of images, the previous page dictates a suggested script that may be read by the teacher while allowing the students to interact with the photos.

Today we're going to learn about a bug called a tick. To start, let's see if you can tell me what each of these bugs is called.

- In the top left is an ant. (Hint, they're usually red and black and like to build hills.)
- In the top right is a spider. (Hint, they have 8 legs.)
- In the bottom right is a ladybug.
- In the bottom left is a tick. You can see that it has 8 legs just like the spider and is red and black like the color of ants.

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/nature-insect-macro-spider-40795/>

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:LadyBug-1.jpg>

<https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2014/05/21/ask-your-weird-animal-questions-insect-edition-wings-stings/>

<https://insideclimatenews.org/species/insects/deer-tick>



You can see here the size of a tick against the size of a finger. All the way on the left is when the tick is a baby and you can see even when it's fully grown it's still really tiny! A full-grown tick is still only the size of a sesame seed like on this bagel or a freckle on your skin.

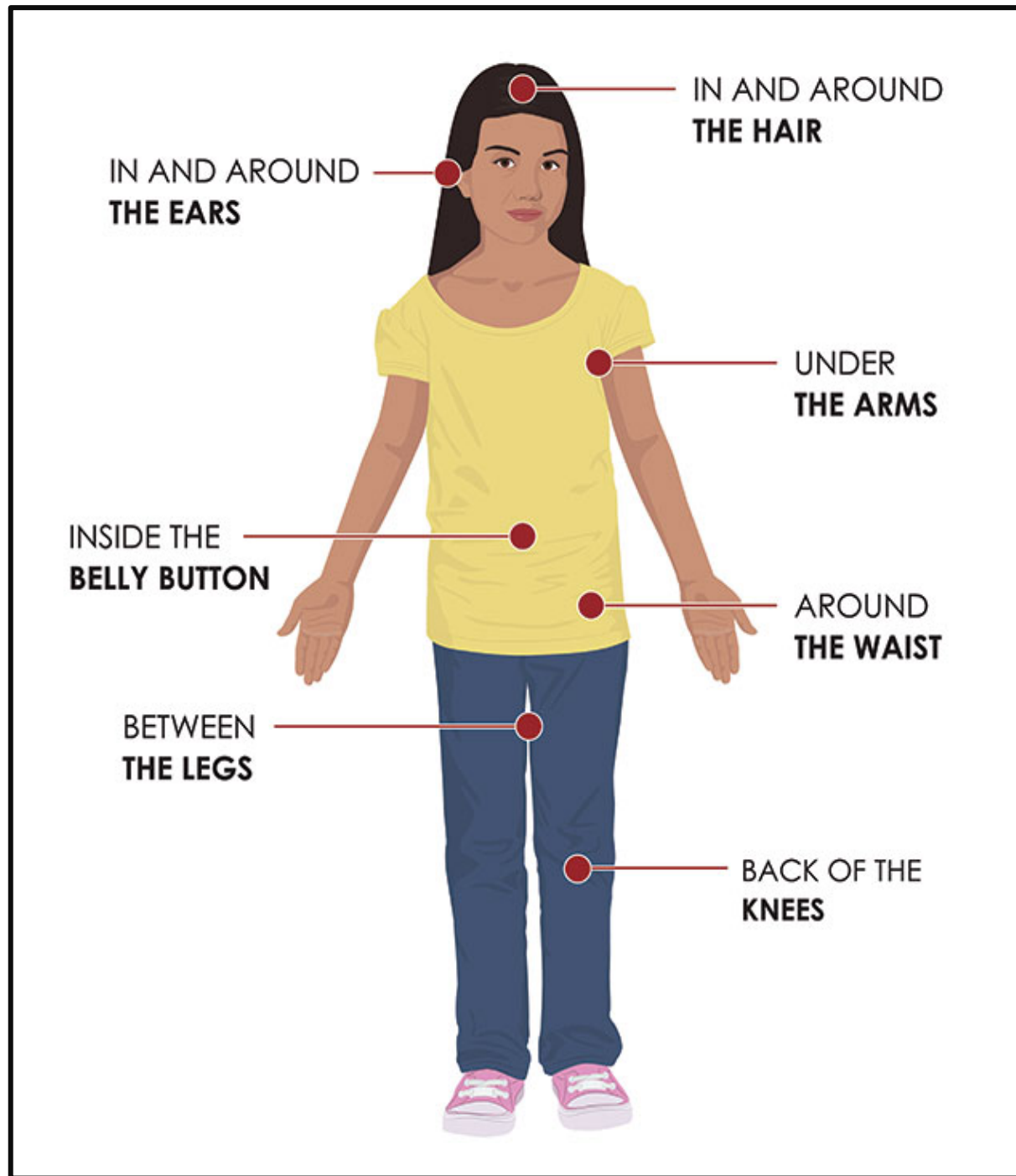
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/tickborne/ticks.html>

<https://dining.columbia.edu/sesame-seed-bagel>



Because ticks are so small, your parents can help you perform something called a tick check when you come inside from playing outside. Ticks live in the grass especially in the woods so when you play in those areas, they can crawl on you and bite you. Your parent can help you look in all of these places like behind your ears, under your armpits, and even in your belly button! It's like a big game of hide and seek.

Photo from [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)



Ticks are really tiny and can't move very far or fast, so they like to catch rides on other animals that walk by them. Some of these animals include squirrels and deer. Can you think of any other animals that might carry ticks? (examples include any small mammals such as a fox, a mouse, a groundhog, etc). How many of you have pets?

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)



Just like other animals, your pets can carry ticks and can bring them into your home. For this reason, you should tell your parents that when you get a tick check, your pet needs to come too! When checking your pet for ticks, pay close attention to their head and behind their ears because that's where ticks really like to hide.

We're going to send you home with a letter for your parents and a coloring page for you to do. We're also going to give you a tick check calendar so every time you and your parents do a tick check you can put a sticker on that day!

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/66/An_up-close_picture_of_a_curious_male_domestic_shorthair_tabby_cat.jpg

