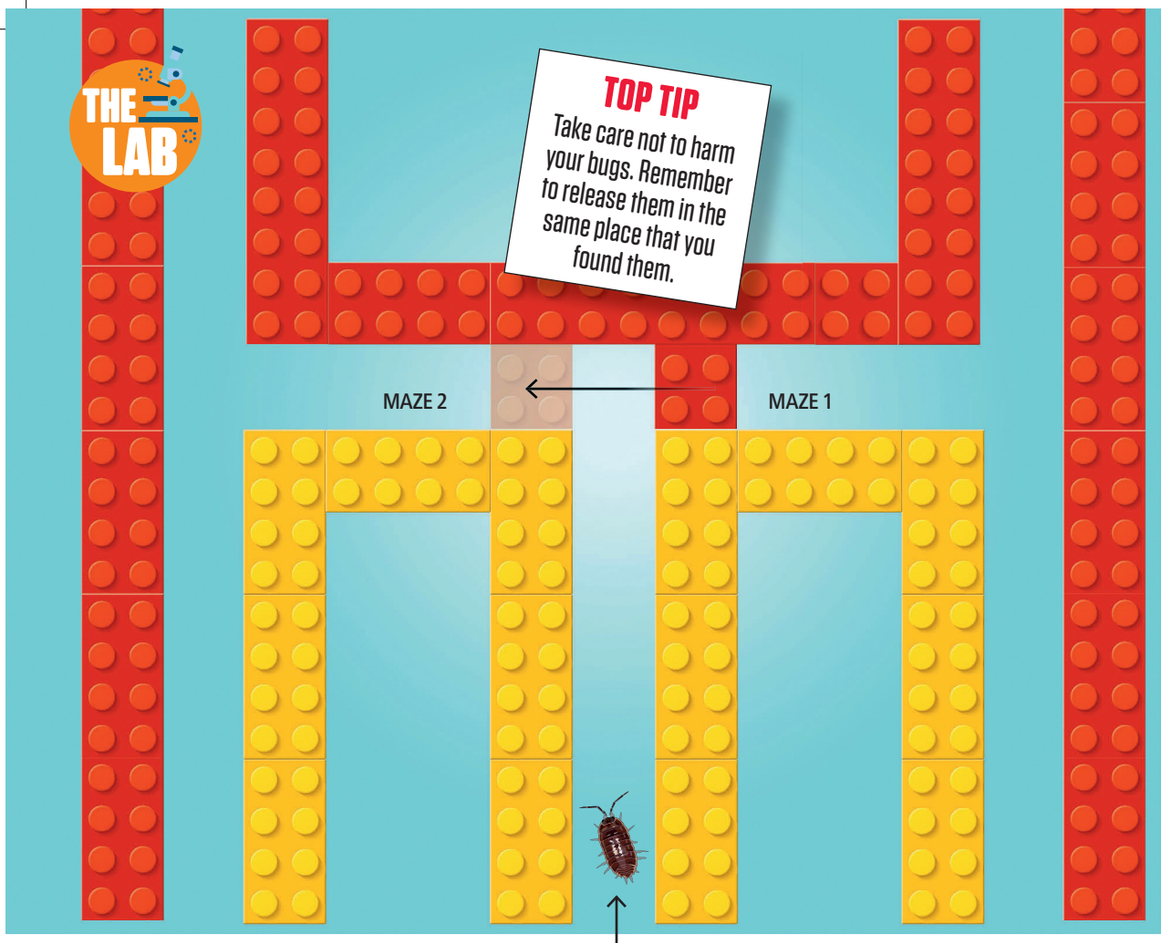


Make a bug maze

Put creepy-crawlies' instincts to the test.

DID YOU KNOW?
Woodlice aren't insects, they're crustaceans, which means they are part of the same family as crabs and lobsters.

What you need

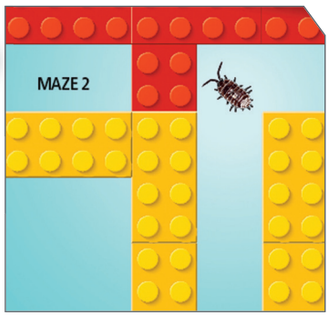
- Lego bricks or wooden blocks
- A clean, empty pot with lid to hold your bug
- A bug (we found a woodlouse)
- Paper and pen

How does it work?

The maze test shows how woodlice (or other bugs) make decisions about the direction in which they choose to walk. The bugs are given no option at the first junction but have free choice on the second junction. Switching the set-up from "MAZE 1" to "MAZE 2" changes the direction of the first junction. Does this affect the way that the animal turns? Woodlice are damp-loving creatures and if placed in a dry area will walk in a straight line to find moisture (rather than in circles). Try the test with several different woodlice and see if the behaviour is repeated.

1 Build a maze using the plan (left). Make sure the passages are wide enough for your bug. Block the right turn on the first junction (MAZE 1).

2 Find a bug, such as a woodlouse or a beetle. Release it at the start of the maze. Note which way it turns at the second junction.



3 Now block the left turn (MAZE 2). Release the same bug again. What does it do this time? Repeat the experiment several times.

YOUR SPACE

We'd love to hear how you got on with this month's activities. Email your photos to *hello@science-nature.co.uk*. Featured readers will receive a *Science+Nature* badge.

ISSUE 38

Claudia and George enjoyed making these colourful rainbow lollies.

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Emily and her sister stayed cool after making their rainbow fruit lollies.

ISSUE 36

Joshua loved baking leopard bread almost as much as eating it.

ALAMY · REX SHUTTERSTOCK