



# Fighting Pests with the 3 Ps

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

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

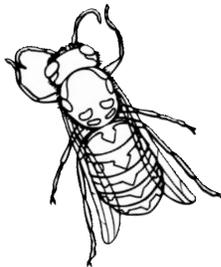
**Parasites** live on or inside pests and also may kill them.

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

## The 3 Ps in Action

In the examples below, which of the 3 Ps is fighting pests?

**1** Bugs are attacking the plants in your school playground. Upon close inspection, you find tiny insects called scales on plant leaves. Insect killers (insecticides) would kill the scales, but might also harm other creatures in the playground. Also, school officials do not want to use insecticides where kids play. School officials work with agricultural extension agents to put tiny stingless wasps to work. These wasps lay their eggs inside the pesty scales. Wasp larvae hatch and grow inside the scales. That kills the scales.



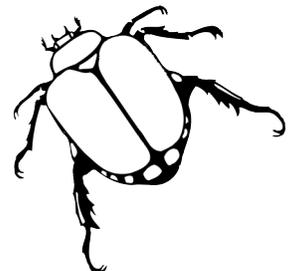
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**3** The brown bat can catch 1,200 mosquito-sized insects in just one hour.



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**2** Japanese beetles have invaded America. They eat roots, leaves, flower buds and fruit. 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.



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Imagine you are one of the 3 Ps. Make a poster to advertise yourself.

