



BY KATE HOFMANN

Morning dew brings beautiful views.

Have you ever walked across a lawn early in the morning and gotten your sneakers soaked? Have you ever seen delicate drops sparkling on every blade of grass and flower petal? If so, you know dew! Next time the world is wet and shiny-new, go check it out. Here are a few things to see and “dew”:

• **Pretty Dew Views.** Look for sparkling dewdrops on plants, flowers, and spider webs (**right**). If you like to take photos, these can make lovely pictures.

• **Dew Zoom In.** Look closely at a single droplet. Do you see how whatever is underneath it looks bigger than usual? That’s

because the curved shape of the drop works as a magnifying lens.

• **A Dewy Zoo.** Search for insects decorated with dew. When beetles and other small creatures get cold at night, they stop moving, and dew collects on them (**above**). As the sun warms them, the dew dries, and the creatures go on their way.

• **Dew to Drink.** Can you spot insects or other animals using dewdrops as drinking fountains? (See ants at **far right, above**.) If there’s no water source nearby, dew can be their best bet for a sip.

*Whatever you do, don’t delay!
It won’t be long before the dew disappears until another day!*


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Where does dew come from?

Dew appears right out of thin air! When air is warm, it can hold lots of water. The water is in the form of a gas, called *water vapor* (VAY-pur). As the air chills on a cool night, it can no longer hold as much water vapor. So the vapor *condenses* (kun-DEN-sez), or changes to a liquid, and collects on objects that are close to the ground.

The best time to find dew is after a warm day followed by a cool, clear, calm night. (On cloudy or windy nights, the air doesn’t chill enough.) Look for it first thing in the morning. After the sun rises and warms the air, the dewdrops quickly *evaporate* (ee-VAP-or-ate), which means they turn back into water vapor.

