

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #47



### Snow Flea

INSECT

#### HABITAT & DIET

Like other springtails, snow fleas live in leaf litter or decomposed matter on the forest floor. They are more easily noticed in winter when they can be found on top of snow. As decomposers, they eat old forest materials, fungi, and algae.

#### FUN FACT

Snow fleas can jump several inches high, which might not seem very high, but they are only around 1/16th of an inch long, which is much smaller than a grain of rice. If a snow flea was the height of a human, it could jump over a 10-story building.

SPRINGTAIL



SNOW FLEA



### HOW HIGH CAN YOU JUMP?

When I was a young girl, my family and I took a nature class about snow, and one thing we learned about and saw was snow fleas. I was fascinated by these creatures that look like tiny black dots against white snow and can jump quite high! While they are called fleas, snow fleas are not actually fleas, like the type of flea you might find on a cat or dog. Instead, snow fleas are springtails. Have you ever heard of a springtail? You might remember Springtails from [Episode 50](#) when we learned about the forest recyclers. Springtails are insects that help break down old materials like sticks, leaves, and pine needles and turn them into healthy soil for new things to grow.

In the summer, springtails blend well with the forest floor and are not easily noticed. However, snow fleas, a type of springtail, are sometimes black and are easily seen in the winter against white snow, especially by the trunks of trees. They might be called fleas because they jump like fleas. They have a special part of the body called a furcula, which acts like a spring, propelling them into the air. How do tiny snow fleas survive cold winter temperatures? God designed them with the ability to create a protein in their body that acts like antifreeze. God created similar systems in ladybugs as well as many reptiles. Listen to [Episode 16](#) to learn how other insects survive the cold.

Has anyone ever mistaken your identity? Maybe they thought you were someone else and called you by the wrong name? Snow fleas are not actually fleas, but are called fleas because they look like and jump like fleas. The Bible says people will know who we are by how we act. In John 13:35, Jesus said, "All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other." Someone might confuse you for another person who looks similar. Still, everyone will know you love and follow Jesus as you obey Him and follow His ways. God helps us to do that through His Holy Spirit and Bible. The more we get to know Him, the more we live and act like Jesus, and others will know we belong to God.

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