

Insects & Spiders

Synopsis

K, 1st—4th



Hartley
Nature Center

Summary:

Learn about insect bodies, behaviors, and relationships while overturning rocks and logs to catch them in action. Use nets to safely catch some bugs, and look at them up close with magnifying glasses and bug boxes. Role play to explore the world from an spider's point of view.

MN Academic Standards

supported during HNC program. More standards can be supported with pre- and post lesson activities.

Science

- 0.4.1.1.1 ~ observe/compare animals
- 0.4.1.1.2 ~ identify parts of animals
- 1.1.3.2.1 ~ use tools to gather info
- 1.4.1.1.1 ~ sort animals into groups
- 1.4.2.1.1 ~ animal survival needs
- 1.4.2.1.2 ~ habitats provide needs
- 1.4.3.1.1 ~ animal life cycles
- 3.1.3.2.1 ~ everybody can do science
- 3.4.1.1.1 ~ animal structures/functions
- 3.4.1.1.2 ~ ID groups of animals
- 3.4.3.2.1 ~ generational traits

Authenticity

Students observe insects in their natural habitats.

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Safely expose students to many insects.
- Cover basic insect anatomy.
- Search many habitats for insects (grasses, soil, trunks or branches, holes, forest floor).

Students will be able to:

- Identify the physical characteristics of an insect and a spider
- Recognize the role of insects as producers, decomposers, food, and predators
- Distinguish various places insects might be found.
- Use tools (nets, field guides) to observe and/or identify insect species.

Activities

In the classroom:

- Discuss the vast diversity of insects and their roles in the natural environment.
- Bug Dress Up: A student will be selected to transform with costume pieces into an insect. As each piece is added, adaptations will be pointed out.

In the field:

- Compare pictures and live insects. Do they all have wings? Where might they live?
- Go on a bug hunt. Use nets, sheets, and magnifying glasses to catch and observe insect and spider species in different habitats (field, forest, pond, etc.)
- Role play being a baby spider by drifting to a new home and spinning a web. Students can also test their "inner spider" by using their eight legs to detect an insect landing on their web.

Bad Weather Alternative

- Prior to class, HNC educators will collect some aquatic insects to view indoors (with microscopes and/or magnifying glasses).
- Students may work together to design an insect mural, depicting many kinds of bugs, their homes/habitats, food sources, and behavior (ant hills, hole in a tree, flying insects, etc.)
- Preserved bug samples can be explored.