

Insects & Spiders

Synopsis

K, 1st—4th



Hartley
Nature Center

MN Academic Standards

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

Science

- 0.1.1.2.1 Observation of natural world
- 0.4.1.1.1 Observe plants and animals
- 0.4.1.1.2 Identify parts of animals
- 1.1.1.1.1 Support answer with obs.
- 1.1.3.2.1 Use tools to gather info
- 1.4.1.1.1 Sort animals into groups
- 1.4.2.1.2 Habitats provide needs
- 1.4.3.1.1 Animal life cycles
- 1.4.3.1.2 Life cycle same as parent
- 2.4.1.1 Living things are diverse
- 3.1.1.1.1 Support claims with evidence
- 3.1.3.4.1 Science tool such as hand lens
- 3.4.1.1.1 Growth, survive, reproduce
- 3.4.1.1.2 ID groups of animals
- 3.4.3.2.1 Generational traits
- 3.4.3.2.2 Differences give advantage

Language Arts

- 0.8.1.1 D, 0.8.3.3, 1.8.1.1 C, E, 1.8.3.3,
- 2.8.1.1 C, E, 2.8.3.3, 3.8.1.1 C, D, F,
- 3.8.3.3, 4.8.1.1 C, D

Authenticity

Students observe insects in their
natural habitats.

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Safely expose students to many insects and/or spiders.
- Cover basic insect and spider anatomy.
- Search many habitats for insects/spiders (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
- List 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.
- Insect 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:

- Go on an insect hunt. Use nets, sheets, and magnifying glasses to catch and observe insect and spider species in different habitats (field, forest, etc.)
- Play games that teach about an insects role in its environment.

Bad Weather Alternative

- Use microscopes or magnifying lenses to observe preserved insects.
- Play games that teach about the life cycles of insects
- Play games that teach about an insects role in its environment.