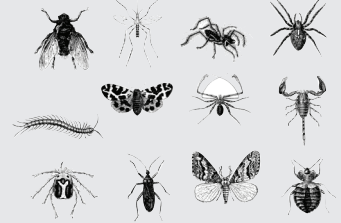


Insect Mania



Family Science Activity

Due Date: _____

This activity helps you learn about...

Animals, Insects

- habitats

This activity involves...

Collecting data, communicating, experimenting, formulating hypotheses, inferring, interpreting data, observing, predicting

Activity duration

Allow 2-3 days to complete this activity.

What do we need?

From School: 1 magnifying lens, 3-4 feet of yarn, 1-gallon plastic bag, 1 Observation Record

What are we doing?

There are animals almost everywhere on Earth. Name all the places you can think of where animals live. How many different habitats did you name? Where do insects live outside? Do they come out more frequently during the day or night? Your scientist is going to look for and study insects right outside of your home to answer these questions.

How are we going to do this?

1. During this activity, you will count the number of insects you see in a small area outside at different times of the day. Your small area will be the size of the circle you make with your piece of yarn.
2. Before you go outside, predict how many insects you think you will see inside the circle and write your thoughts on the Observation Record.

3. Go outside and pick a place to look for insects. Put your yarn down there in a circle. This yarn circle will be where you look for your insects. Do not look for insects before you place your circle on the ground. You may choose to put your yarn circle in a grassy area, on concrete, in a wooded area, or any other area near your home. Once you have placed your circle, please leave it in that same place for the next few days.

Day 1

1. In the morning or daytime, count how many insects you see inside the yarn circle with just your eyes. Record the number of insects you see on the Observation Record. Draw at least two of the insects you see on the Observation Record.
2. In the evening, repeat this activity.

Day 2

1. In the morning or daytime, use your magnifying lens and count how many insects you see inside the circle. Your circle should be in the same place as Day 1. Record the number of insects you see on the Observation Record. Draw at least two of the insects you see on the Observation Record.
2. In the evening, repeat this activity.
3. Finish the Observation Record and discuss the Family Time Questions that follow.
4. Return your Observation Record and packet to school by the date due.

Family Time Questions

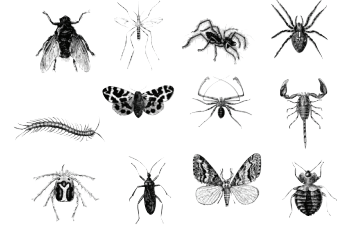
1. What was the ground like where you placed your circle? How did this affect the insects?
2. How did your observations compare with your predictions? Did you observe more or fewer insects than you expected?
3. Did you have the same number of insects in the morning and in the evening? Why or why not?
4. How many insects did you see in all both days? Did the number change from Day 1 to Day 2?
5. What happened when you used the magnifying lens? Why do you think this happened?
6. Did your chosen area seem empty at first? Why or why not? Does your chosen area seem empty now? Why or why not?
7. Why do you think the insects might live where they do?
8. What other things did you notice?

Family Notes

- Your scientist may need assistance in finding a good location for his or her circle.
- There are many types of insects, ranging from ants and bees, to ladybugs and grasshoppers. Insects have a head, body, and up to 3 pairs of legs. They can also have 1 to 2 pairs of wings. (Use the picture for this activity to find the “bugs” that are insects!)
- On the Observation Record, all responses are acceptable; no answer is right or wrong. For the “I discovered” section, any thoughts are welcome.
- Encourage your scientist to record what she or he observes and thinks about the activity. Words or drawings may be used to record the observations.
- Your scientist may need help to complete the activity and fill out the Observation Record. Please partner with your child on this activity.

Family Science Observation Record

Insect. Mania



Name: _____

Date: _____

Hypothesis: I predict that I will find _____ (#) of insects in my circle.

Description of my "circle" (my habitat):

For Day 1, complete the chart below based on your activity. Use words and/or drawings.

Date	Time	Number of Insects Counted	Description of Insects
Day 1 ____/____/____ Month/Date	Morning _____ AM		
	Evening _____ PM		

For Day 2, complete the chart below based on your activity. Use words and/or drawings.
Remember to use your magnifying lens!

Date	Time	Number of Insects Counted	Description of Insects
<p>Day 2 ____/____</p>	<p>Morning _____ AM</p>		
<p>____/____ Month/Date</p>	<p>Evening _____ PM</p>		

I discovered...

