Insect Explorers!

Become an insect explorer at your own home! Follow this guide to discover more about the world at your feet.

What is an Insect?

An insect is any "bug" that has:

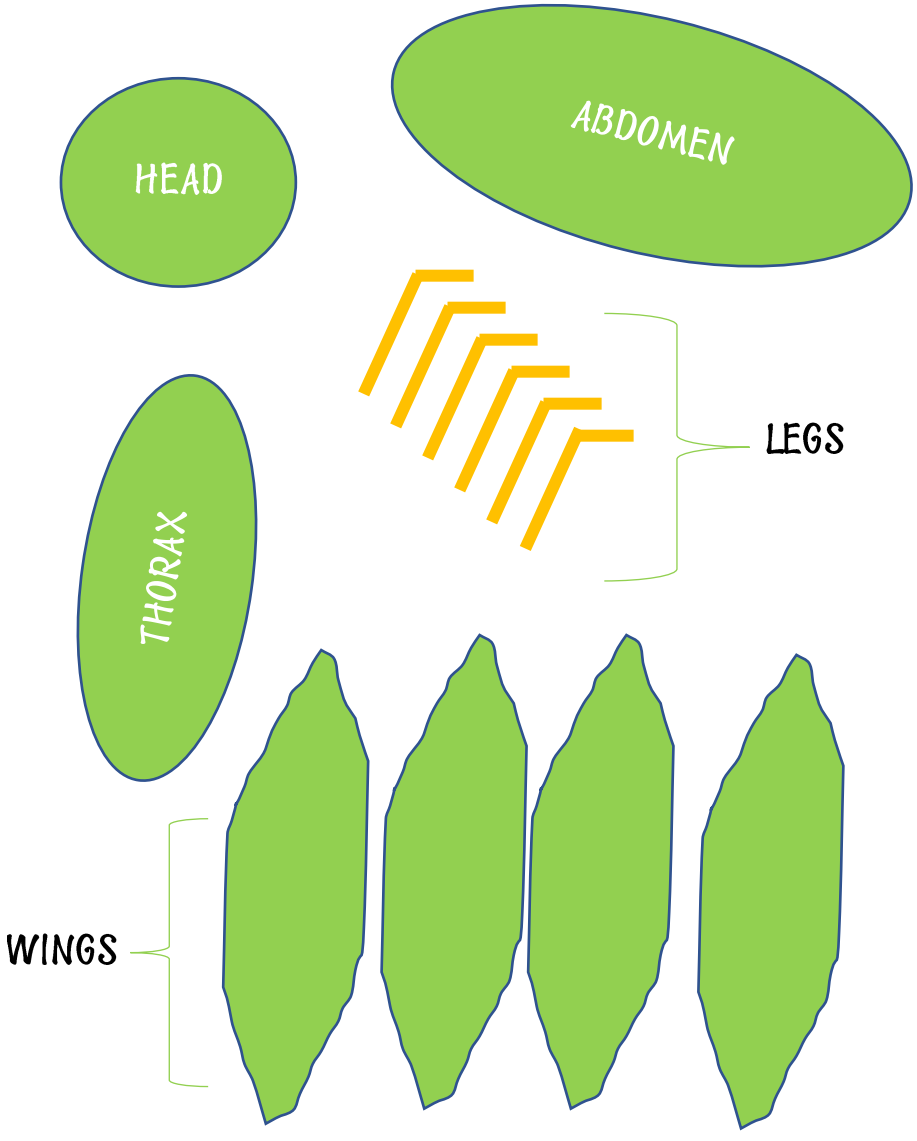
- A head
- A thorax
- An abdomen
- 3 pairs of legs (6 total)
- 1-2 pairs of wings

But, what if they have more than 6 legs?

A lot of the creatures we call "bugs" aren't ALL insects. Scientists have a specific way of separating all plants and animals into different groups called "Classes" and "Orders". So, if a bug you find has more than 6 legs it's considered something entirely different!

Build your own Insect!

Cut out the pieces below and glue/tape them together to create your own insect with proper parts!



Shake A Shrub

Now, it's time to go on a search for insects outdoors! Remember, the outdoors is the home of these insects; once you gently catch one, release them back so they can return home!

STEP 1

Gather Your Materials!

- 1 insect catcher (a small cup, box, etc)
- A white towel/sheet
- 1 magnifying glass (optional)

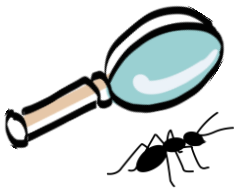
STEP 2

Start your search.

- Grab your white cloth and place it underneath a bush or low tree branch.
- Gently shake the branch to shake off the insects
- Use your tools to try and catch (and then release) what you see on the sheet!

STEP 3

Record what you find in the box below.



Ant Investigations

Time for an experiment! You are now an **"entomologist"** (a scientist that studies insects) and today you will be discovering the hidden secrets of ants. Follow the instructions below and use the next page to record your observations!

STEP 1: Gather Your Materials!

- 1 insect catcher (a small cup, box, etc)
- Ant investigations observation sheet
- 5 different kinds of "ant" food: (Oats, cereal, candy, seeds, nuts)
- 1 magnifying glass (optional)

STEP 2: Experiment #1

- Find an ant hill in a location that is safe to explore.
- Take out your insect catcher and scoop up a couple of ants.
- Set a time for 2 minutes and take some time to observe the ants.
- Record your observations on the next page:
  - What do you think the ants are doing?
  - Record what the ants are doing

STEP 3: Experiment #2

- Set out small portions of each of the foods equally distanced from where most of the ants are. Make sure they are the SAME sized portions the SAME distance away from the ants.
- Write down your hypothesis on the next page. What food will the ants touch the most?
- Set a timer for 5 minutes
- Every time an ant touches a type of food put a tally in the box. After 5 minutes, add up the tallies to determine the ants "favorite" food!

Ant Investigations Observations

Before you observe an ant hill, draw an ant in the box. How many legs and body sections does it have? Does it have eyes or ears? Do ants have antenna? Remember what parts all insects have!

EXPERIMENT #1: Record your observations and thoughts here:

EXPERIMENT #2: Fill in each COLUMN with each type of food.

HYPOTHESIS: The ants will eat _____ the most because

_____

_____

Type of Food:				
How many times did the food get touched?				