

Insects

Curriculum Overview

Learning Outcomes — Students will be able to;

- Describe the physical features that define an insect.
- Describe the stages of “complete” and “incomplete metamorphosis”.
- Understand the important role that insects play in the environment.
- Appreciate why insects are important to people.

Pre-Trip — Build vocabulary, establish key concepts, build anticipation.

- **In-Class Presentation.** A felt board and 3-D models are used to demonstrate the basic components of an insect — head, thorax, abdomen, six legs — as well as other physical features — wings, antennae, mouthparts, camouflage.
- **In-Class Games.** Students will use games to learn the distinct stages of insect metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult) and insect socialization (bee nectar dance).
- **Fieldtrip expectations.** The naturalist will inform the students of what they’ll be doing and where they’ll be going, with tips regarding clothing and footwear.

Fieldtrip — Experiential learning; demonstrate vocabulary and concepts with direct experience.

- **Explore local fields and forests.** Students will explore environments near their schools, looking for live insects that they can observe.
- **Close observation.** Students will look at insects in the field, using small hand-held microscopes and observing the physical features of each bug. Observing a bug in its local environment can give clues to its food, mobility, and where it likes to live.
- **Reinforce concepts.** Review the key roles that insects play in the environment — pollination, decomposition, food for birds and other animals, pest control.

Post-Trip — Reinforce vocabulary and key concepts, students investigate further and present their knowledge to the class. These activities are teacher-driven, with support from the naturalist.

- **Word Search.** Build and strengthen insect vocabulary.
- **Artwork.** Insect colouring sheet showing a variety of species.
- **Game.** Students can play “Bug Bingo” and reinforce what they’ve learned.