

**Grade Level:**

PreK-K

Subject Area:

Science

Language Arts

WMELS:

Exploration,
Discovery and
Problem Solving:

Multi-Sensory:

A.EL.1

Curiosity,
Engagement and
Persistence: Risk

Taking/New

Experiences: A.EL.1

Mathematical

Thinking:

Comparisons: B.EL.4

Scientific Thinking:

Observations: C.EL.1

Social

Competence: Social

Interactions: C.EL.2

Email contact:

curriculum@mpm.edu

Website

www.mpm.edu

Investigating Insects

Lesson Guide

Program Overview:

By participating in the Investigating Insects program, children will become familiar with the diverse characteristics of various insects by comparing how each insect varies in shape, size and defense mechanisms. They will also learn about the important functions of insects in our environment and gain a new respect for them.

Background:

We live in a world of insects. There are close to one million different species of insects and they have existed since before dinosaurs. Insects do not have a spine; instead they have a hard outer body covering that protects them and supports their body weight. All insects have six legs and three major body parts: the head, thorax and abdomen. Spiders aren't insects, they're arachnids. They have two body parts and eight legs.

Student Objectives:

1. To discuss insects and learn about body parts and features on those body parts.
2. To observe live insects and bugs in a classroom setting.
3. To understand how bugs are helpful in our environment.

Assessment:

1. Children will have observed, questioned and had conversations about the characteristics of several live arthropods, including insects and arachnids.
2. Children will learn new information about the importance of bugs and insects in our environment.
3. At hands-on activity stations in the classroom, children will apply knowledge and skills that was discussed and observed during the program.

Program Vocabulary:

Arachnid: an animal with four pairs of legs and a body with two segments, belonging to a large class that includes spiders, scorpions, and mites

Camouflage: the hiding or disguising of something by covering it up or changing the way it looks

Exoskeleton: the hard protective covering of an organism

Habitat: the natural conditions and environment in which a plant or animal lives

Head, Thorax, Abdomen: all insects have these three body parts, with the head containing the eyes, mouth, and antennae, the thorax containing the legs and wings, if present, and the abdomen containing the spiracles

Enrichment Vocabulary:

Decomposing

Desert

Predator

Prey

Rainforest

Venom

Procedure:

Meet your Museum educator at the bottom of the grand staircase on the ground level five minutes before your scheduled program start time.