

Insects

Big Book of Butterflies

3+

Science skills

The children make observations and predictions and gain experience in sequencing.

Materials

Large handmade book with poster board on the front and back and white paper in the middle
Hole punch

Pipe cleaners
Crayons
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

What to do

1. Each child will make her own big book. Read the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
2. Have a class discussion about all the different things a caterpillar might eat. Each day for several days the children draw pictures of these things in their books. After they finish each picture, punch a hole in the middle of it. Let them continue for about five to six days with the different things the caterpillar eats. On day seven, ask each child to draw the cocoon or chrysalis, and punch a hole in that as well.
3. The next day let the children draw a beautiful butterfly on the last page, with a hole where the head would be.
4. Now the children can tell the story, with their pipe cleaner "caterpillar" eating its way through all those foods, and then finally emerging as a butterfly.

Theresa M. Jarmuz, Lancaster, NY

Bringing Insects Indoors

3+

Science skills

An insect in the classroom allows observation and stimulates discussion about nature.

Materials

Bug container and net

What to do

1. Take the children exploring outdoors. When you find an insect to observe, scoop up some of its habitat—the dirt and/or leaves surrounding it—and place the insect inside the container.

Insects

2. Bring the container indoors and let the children observe the insect for a few days. Explain to the children why it is very important to return the insect to its natural habitat.
3. Share insect facts with your class: all insects have six legs, two antennae and three body parts: the head, thorax and abdomen. Most progress from egg to adult insect.

■ Cindy Winther, Oxford, MI

3+

Bug Hunt

Science skills

Children closely observe insects.

Materials

Containers for collecting bugs
Magnifying glasses

What to do

1. At circle time read a book or show pictures of bugs and insects you may find in your area.
2. Ask the children if they know the story song "Bear Hunt." Tell them instead of a bear hunt you are going on a bug hunt. Pass out containers for bugs.
3. Sing as you go: We're going on a bug hunt, through the tall grass, through the mud, through the river, climb the mountain, etc., until you reach the area in which you will look for bugs. Allow the children to fan out and look for bugs to put in their containers. If you live in an area where there are dangerous bugs, be sure to tell the children to ask an adult before they touch a bug.
4. Encourage and assist the children to look under rocks, the bark of a tree, dead logs, and in or on plants. Help them put bugs in their containers.
5. When everyone has found at least one bug, return to the classroom. Be sure to go back down the mountain, through the river, etc.
6. Look at the bugs with a magnifying glass. After you are finished, you may return the bugs to their homes.

More to do

More science: Put some bugs in the science area or in an aquarium for a Bug Zoo. Provide the children with books so they can identify the bugs.

■ Helen DeWitt, Cochise, AZ