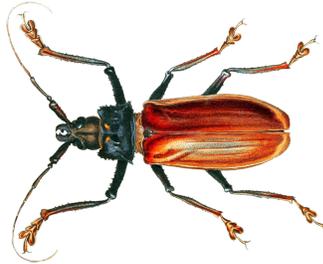




Build-A-Bug



Introduction

We often call insects bugs by mistake. Bugs are, in fact, a very specific type of insect! So what makes bugs different from say spiders, dragonflies or even centipedes? It all has to do with their very special body parts. If you look close enough you will find that all of those crawling creatures outside and in are actually very different. Insects are animals that have six legs, antennae, three body segments and an exoskeleton. Insects also have wings- most of the time. Common insects include ants, flies, ladybugs, bees and beetles. There are more than a million different kinds of insects! So what is a bug? A bug is a kind of insect- so it has all of those insect features- the legs, the antennae, the body segments and what not. A bug also has a very special mouth. A bug's mouth is built for sucking up liquids (mostly from plants), called a proboscis. Unlike a butterfly however, a bug's proboscis cannot roll up- in fact they look more like beaks. Most bugs use their special mouthparts to suck juices from plants, but some (like bed bugs) can use their mouths to suck blood from other animals.

Materials

Paper

Pencils, markers or crayons

"Insect Parts" handout

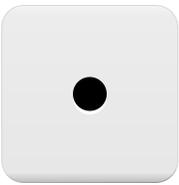
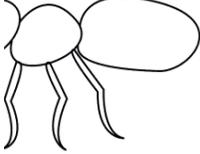
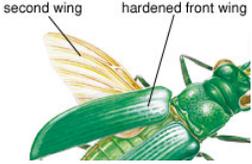
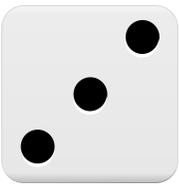
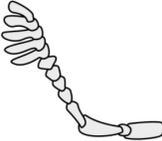
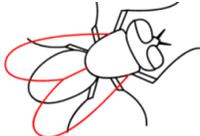
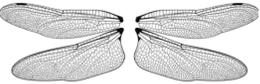
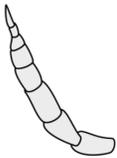
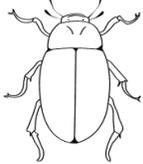
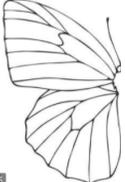
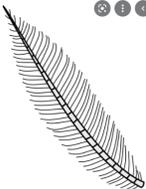
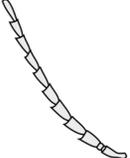
Small collection containers (used jars with lids work great)

dice

Activity

1. Go outside and explore! Go to your yard, a local park or schoolyard and look all around for insects. The more you focus on looking for small critters the more you will see. Lifting up piles of leaves, old sticks and logs and flower pots are good ways of finding insects who are hiding. Gently move the insects you find into a collection container so you can look at them more closely. Notice and observe the body parts of the insects you find. REMEMBER: always return the insects you collected back to where you found them- they are an important part of the ecosystem and a living creature to be respected.
2. Build-a-Bug! Using the insect parts handout and your dice roll to select each insect body part for your new bug species. Sketch each of the bugs features as you go on your paper to create a brand new insect.
3. Now that you have created a new species, give it a name! Label your sketch with at least three features this bug has. Think about what it might eat and what habitat it would live in and add those sketches to your paper.

Insect Parts

	Head/ Antennae	Mouth	Thorax, Abdomen and Legs	Wings
	Setaceous 	Chewing 	Create your own! 	Bee 
	Create your own! 	Piercing 	Ant 	Beetle 
	Flabellate 	Create your own! 	Fly 	Dragonfly 
	Stylate 	Siphoning 	Beetle 	Butterfly 
	Plumose 	Lapping 	Dragonfly 	Create your own! 
	Serrate 	Create your own! 	Spitbug 	Grasshopper 