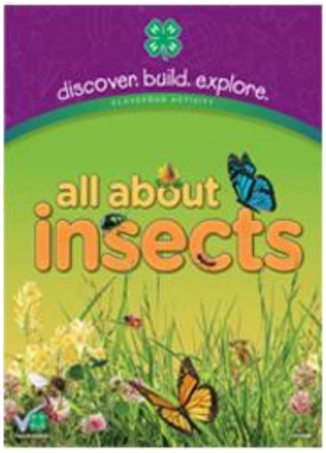
Session Two Outline: All about Insects



Introduction

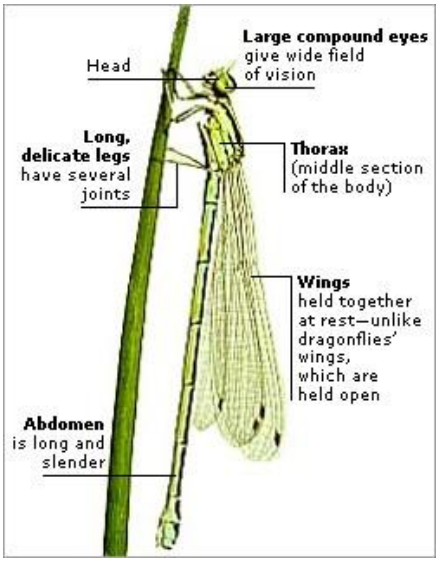
Insects are everywhere, a careful and vigilant look can reveal quite a few insect hiding spots. The activity explains what insects are, and how to identify insects and their habitats.

Goals

Be able to determine different body parts of insects and their habitats

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of insect's body structure and functionality
- The activity enhances observational and examination skills
- Enhances knowledge in science and its application



What is an insect?

All insects have a body that is divided into three sections and antennae, and three pairs of legs. Some adults have one or two pairs of wings.

Head: The first part of an insect's body. It contains the mouth, eyes and antennae

Thorax: The middle part of an insect's body. This is where the legs and wings are attached.

Abdomen: The third part of an insect's body. The abdomen is often the largest region.

Antennae: Found in pars on the head of an insect. They are used to hear, taste and smell.

Activity one: Signs of insects

Now the participants know what insects look like, encourage them to begin their own search to find them

There are several clue that will help participants to find insects. The clues are:

- **Look for holes in plants**. Holes in leaves, petals or on other plant parts may show the presence of chewing insects. Many insects eat plants as their food
- **Examine the stem or leaves of plants for galls.** A gall is a growth in plant tissue that is often caused by insects feeding or laying their eggs

- **Look for long twisting tunnels on plant leaves**. These tunnels are made by insect larvae (young insects) that eat between the top and bottom layers of the leaf
- **Find an old log and peel away the bark.** On the surface of the wood you might see some tunnels made by beetle larvae tunneling through the wood

Supplies:

1. Collecting jar
2. Notebook

Activity instructions:

1. Take a collecting jar and a notebook outside and begin search for your insects
2. First, look for clues
3. Write clues you find and the insect you think it might be in the chart below

CASE ONE	CASE TWO
The insect clue: I think the insect could be:	The insect clue: I think the insect could be:
CASE THREE	CASE FOUR
The insect clue: I think the insect could be:	The insect clue: I think the insect could be:

Reflect:

What did you learn about different clues?

Activity two: How to find insects?

Use the clues identified to find insects

Supplies:

1. A paper plate or piece of stiff cardboard
2. A cup or a glass
3. Collecting jar

Activity Instructions:

1. For ground dwellers, place a cup or glass over the top of the insect and slide a paper plate or piece of stiff cardboard underneath the ground dweller

2. Try to be careful to not injure the insect
3. Once you have captured the insect, you can slide it into the collecting jar
4. Once the insect is safely in the collecting jar and the lid is back on, you can examine the insect by looking through the top part of your collect jar
5. This magnifies, or makes bigger, or what you are able to see.
    - What do you see?
    - Is the insect moving or staying still?
    - Can you identify any of the insect's body parts?
6. Once you are done examining the insect, you can carefully let it go outside
7. Talk with a friend or an adult about what types of insects you collected.
    - What things were same and what things were different?

Conclusion and application:

Just like insects other animals leave clues too. Can you think of any examples?

What clues do YOU leave?