

Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

Day 6 Ladybugs

Sing a ladybug song. Recite the "Five Little Ladybugs" chip clip poem.

Ladybugs
A Most Recognizable Beetle

There are over 5,000 different species of ladybugs in the world. While many people often think of a red ladybug with black spots, there are many different colors of ladybugs. Some even have stripes!

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create each set.

Activities:

- Show real-life photographs of ladybugs. Ask students if they have ever seen a ladybug in real-life.
- Sing the "Ladybug" song. Have students get up and move to the words of each verse. Picture cards are included to help with the verses.
- Recite the chip clip poem, "5 Little Ladybugs." Cut out a leaf from green construction paper. Remove a ladybug from the leaf as the poem progresses through each verse.

Extension Idea:
Create a paper plate ladybug. Students can color the paper plate or provide colored plates. Students practice fine motor skills by gluing black dots on to paste. Add pipe cleaner antennae.

Day 7 Incredible Eyes

Examine compound eyes by looking at real pictures. Sing a compound eyes song and play an insect grid game.

Incredible Eyes
A Wide Range of Vision

Insects' eyes are made up of thousands of tiny light detectors packed closely together. These types of eyes, called compound eyes, allow insects to see danger before it causes harm.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will practice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

- Show real-life photographs of insect eyes. Discuss how insect eyes are different than our own eyes.
- Sing the "Compound Eyes" song.

To Play:

- Copy, laminate, page only.
- Print different colors of paper.
- Create a grid where each column has the same item, and each row is the same color. Discuss the patterns and relationships of the cards.
- Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
- Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card color and object is missing.

Day 8 Fireflies

Look at the real pictures of fireflies. Sing a fireflies song. Play a firefly hide & seek carpet game.

Fireflies
Nature's Flashlights

Many students are familiar with fireflies. Their flashing glow is a sure-fire way to recognize them. The glow is caused by a chemical reaction within their bodies. This type of light production is called bioluminescence.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will identify numbers.

Activities:

- Show real-life photographs. Ask students if they have ever caught a firefly.
- Sing the "Fireflies" song.
- Play the Little Firefly carpet game.

Extension Idea:
Teach the children how to catch fireflies safely. Use a jar with a lid and a piece of paper. Place the jar in a grassy area at night. Turn the jar upside down and catch the fireflies. Release them when you are done.

To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the right eye. Numbers 1-5 are included. Flip the right number of cards for your students. Identify the numbers on their fingers.
- Slide the firefly under one of the right sides and recite the poem to that it.
- Children guess where the firefly is hiding by identifying the number.

Day 9 Beetles

Look at the real-life pictures of a beetle's life cycle. Sing a life cycle song. Label a beetle picture.

Beetles
Protected by Hard Wings

Beetles are the most common type of insect. Classified by their harder external wings, beetles live on every continent of the world except Antarctica.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.

Activities:

- Show real-life photographs of beetles. Discuss how the beetle life cycle is similar to the butterfly life cycle.
- Sing the "Beetle Life Cycle" song as a class. Use picture cards for assistance with each verse.

To Play:

- Use the beetle life cycle song as a class. Then, marking of beetle's wing page. Review as a class. Then, own beetle page.

Day 10 Conclusion

Practice active listening skills by solving riddles all about insects. Review what you've learned by creating a "can - have - are" chart.

Conclusion
Unit Conclusion

As we've learned, many animals can be classified as insects. There are thousands of different types of insects all over the world.

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will interact and participate in circle time.

Activities:

- Invite students to put things they've learned about insects. Write the ideas on index cards or sentence strips. Create a chart or poster using the can - have - are headers.
- Create riddle bags. Place small plastic toys inside each bag and attach the riddle. (As an alternative, you can print the insect pictures and put them inside the bags.)

Extension Idea:
Go on an insect scavenger hunt using the attached sheet, or send home for families to use together. Remind students to only observe, not touch, the insects.

Introduction

Activate Prior Knowledge

Day 1
lesson
plans

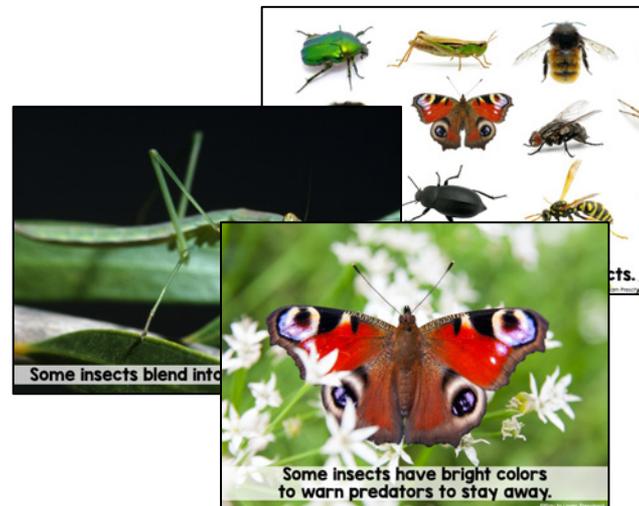
Insects are small animals with six legs and a hard outer shell called an exoskeleton. While many children refer to all small creatures as bugs, there are certain characteristics that distinguish insects as a group unto themselves.

Objectives:

- The students will recognize and label their own preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show the real-life photographs of insects to the students. Discuss different types of insects the students may have seen.
2. Take a poll to ask students, "Do you like insects?" Students can use post-it notes or name cards to respond on a pocket chart bar graph.
3. Sing the "It's an Insect" song as a class.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **fly**.

Pinch index finger and thumb together like you are holding a fly. Then wiggle your hand up and down in front of your body.



Do you like INSECTS?	
 Yes, I like insects.	 No, I do not like insects.
Clarke	Octavia
Finn	Lexa
Adam	Raven
	Jasper

Bugs Everywhere

Thousands of Types of Insects

Day 2
lesson
plans

There are over 900,000 different kinds of insects in the world. Some are helpful. Some are harmful and cause damage. No matter if it is helpful or harmful, all insects share the same basic attributes.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will sort objects by property.

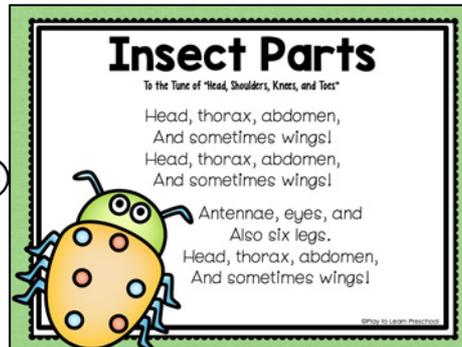
Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs of insects. Discuss the specific attributes of an insect.
2. Sing "Insect Parts." Have the students stand up and act out the song to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."
3. Sort pictures into two groups: Insects or Not Insects.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **bee**. Pinch index finger and thumb together near cheek, like a bee landed on you. Open hand and move away from face like swatting away a bee.



Amazing Ants

A Mighty Insect

Day 3
lesson
plans

Ants live in groups called colonies. Within the colony, each ant has a specific job to help the group.

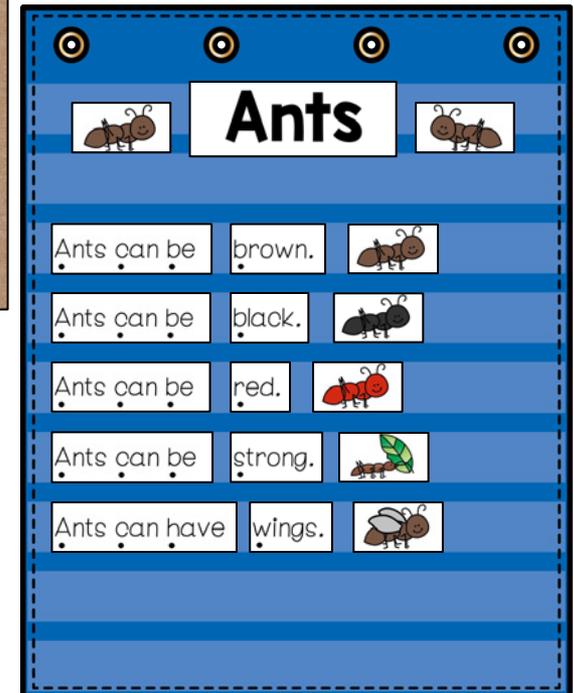
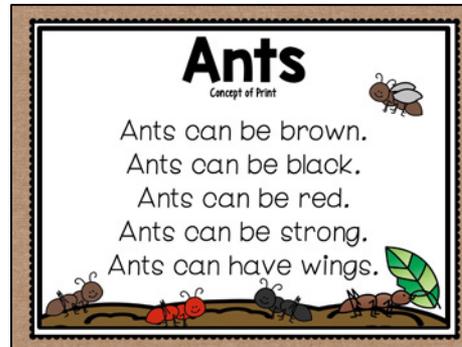
Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.



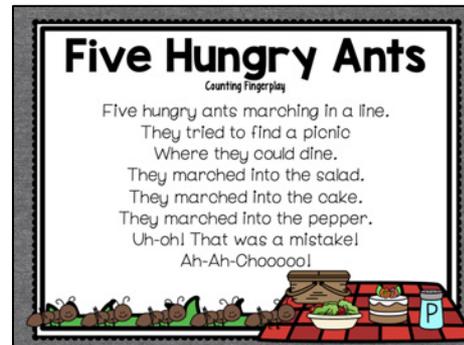
Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs of ants. Discuss characteristics of ants.
2. Read the poem "Ants." Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Use the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line.
3. Sing the "Five Hungry Ants" fingerplay. Have students stand up and act out marching and sneezing.



Extension Idea:

Make a healthy snack of "Ants on a Log." Cut celery pieces into small logs, top with peanut butter and add raisin (ants) for a delicious treat.



Grasshoppers

Leaping Insects

Day 4
Lesson
Plans

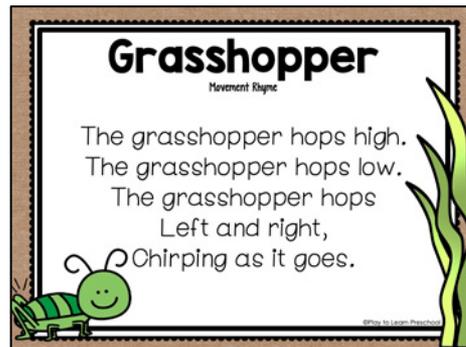
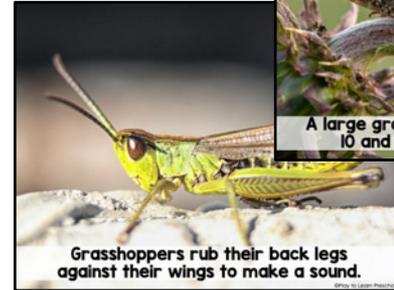
Grasshoppers are a leaping insect that can be found all over the world. While many think of grasshoppers as green, they come in many colors, including a bright multi-colored variety known as a “barber pole” grasshopper.

Objectives:

- The students will begin to make letter-sound connections.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs of grasshoppers. Ask students if they have ever seen a grasshopper in real life.
2. Pass out picture cards to students. Students say what picture is on the card and decide if it begins with a “G” as in grasshopper or “B” as in butterfly. Place cards in appropriate groups on the carpet.
3. Recite the poem, “Grasshopper”. Have the students act out the rhyme by hopping high, low, left, and right to the poem’s words.



Extension Idea:

An insect memory tray will work on concentration and memory skills. Put 4 – 6 small plastic insects on a tray. (grasshopper, fly, ladybug, etc.) Have students look away and remove one insect. Students guess which insect is missing.



Caterpillars & Butterflies

The Constantly Changing Insect

Day 5
lesson
plans

Butterflies are insects that go through a big change in their lives, called metamorphosis. Born as caterpillars, they grow into a beautiful winged insect.

Objectives:

- The students answer questions.
- The students will compare and sort objects.

Activities:

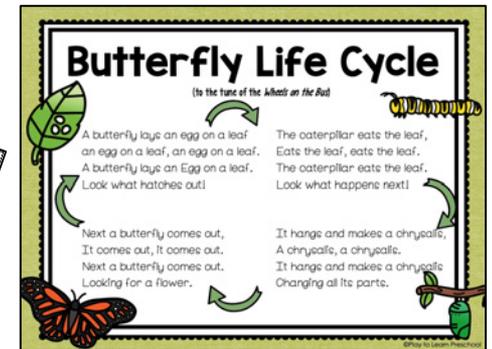
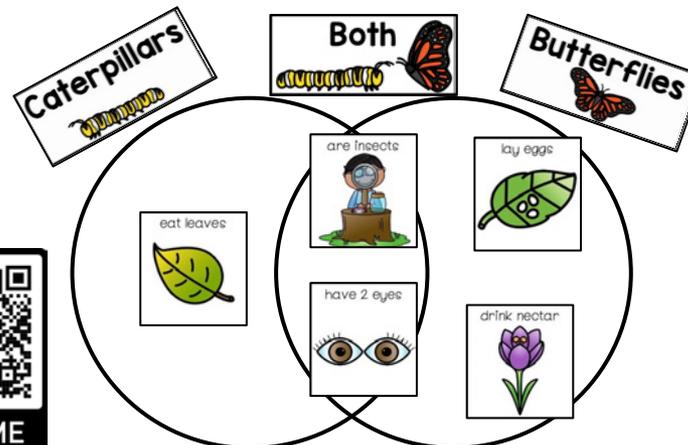
1. Look at the real-life photographs. Discuss how butterflies go through a change called metamorphosis.
2. Sing the "Butterfly Life Cycle" song as a class.
3. Place hula hoops or a large piece of paper on the carpet to create a Venn Diagram. Show each picture and discuss if it is a property of caterpillars, butterflies, or both. Place card in appropriate circle.



Extension Idea:

Make a butterfly sun catcher. Cut wax paper into butterfly shapes. Provide small pieces of colorful tissue paper for students to glue on wax paper. Add pipe cleaner antennae to finish the project.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/colorful-butterfly-sun-catchers-process-art-preschoolers/>



Ladybugs

A Most Recognizable Beetle

Day 6
lesson
plans

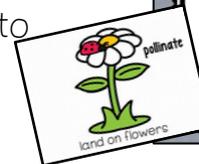
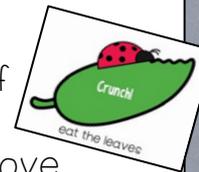
There are over 5,000 different species of ladybugs in the world. While many people often think of a red ladybug with black spots, there are many different colors of ladybugs. Some even have stripes!

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create each set.

Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs of ladybugs. Ask students if they have ever seen a ladybug in real-life.
2. Sing the "Ladybugs" song. Have students get up and move to the words of each verse. Picture cards are included to help with the verses.
3. Recite the chip clip poem, "5 Little Ladybugs." Cut out a leaf from green construction paper. Remove a ladybug from the leaf as the poem progresses through each verse.



Ladybugs

To the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down"

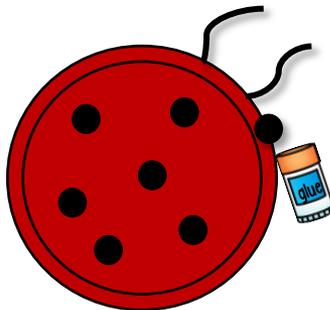
Ladybugs fly up and down,
Up and down, up and down.
Ladybugs fly up and down.
They are so neat!

They flap their wings and fly away
Fly away, Fly away.
They flap their wings and
Fly away.
We love them so much!



Extension Idea:

Create a paper plate ladybug. Students can color the paper plate or provide colored plates. Students practice fine motor skills by gluing black dots on to plate. Add pipe cleaner antennas.



5 Little Ladybugs

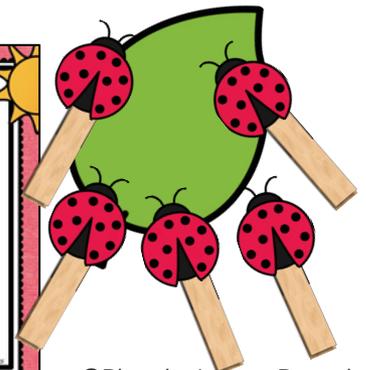
Chip Clip Poem

Five little ladybugs sitting in the sun.
One flies off to have some fun.

Four little ladybugs sitting in the sun.
One flies off to have some fun.

Centaur counting backwards:

No little ladybugs sitting in the sun.
Time to come back,
The day is done!



Incredible Eyes

A Wide Range of Vision

Day 7
Lesson
Plans

Insects' eyes are made up of thousands of tiny light detectors packed closely together. These types of eyes, called compound eyes, allow insects to see danger before it causes harm.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs of insect eyes. Discuss how insect eyes are different than our own eyes.
2. Sing the "Compound Eyes" song.
3. Play the insect grid game.



Compound Eyes

To the Tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Insects have compound eyes,
Compound eyes, compound eyes.
Insects have compound eyes,
They help them see all around.

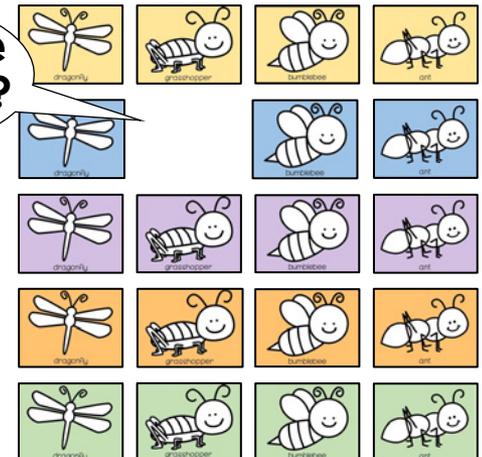
They can see in front and to the sides,
To the sides, to the sides.
They can see in front and to the sides,
Because of their compound eyes.

©Play to Learn Preschool

To Play:

1. Copy template page onto 5 different colors of paper.
2. Create a grid where each column has the same item, and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
3. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
4. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.

Which one is missing?



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **dragonfly**. Cross hands in front of body with first two fingers extended. Flick fingers twice like a dragonfly's wings moving.



Fireflies

Nature's Flashlights

Day 8
lesson
plans

Many students are familiar with fireflies. Their flashing glow is a sure-fire way to recognize them. The glow is caused by a chemical reaction within their bodies. This type of light production is called bioluminescence.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will identify numbers.

Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs. Ask students if they have ever caught a firefly.
2. Sing the "Fireflies" song.
3. Play the Little Firefly carpet game.



To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the night sky. (Numbers 1-20 are included. Pick the right number of cards for your students.) Identify the numbers and item together.
- Hide the firefly under one of the night skies and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the firefly is hiding by identifying the number.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **firefly**. Pinch index finger and thumb on both hands in front of body. Move hands in circles like fireflies flying in the sky.



Beetles

Protected by Hard Wings

Day 9
Lesson
Plans

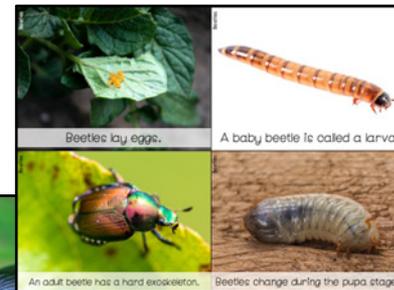
Beetles are the most common type of insect. Classified by their harder external wings, beetles live on every continent of the world except Antarctica.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.

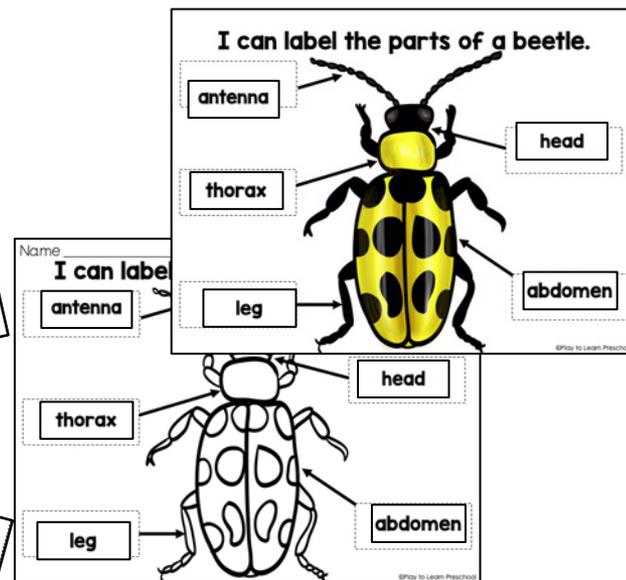
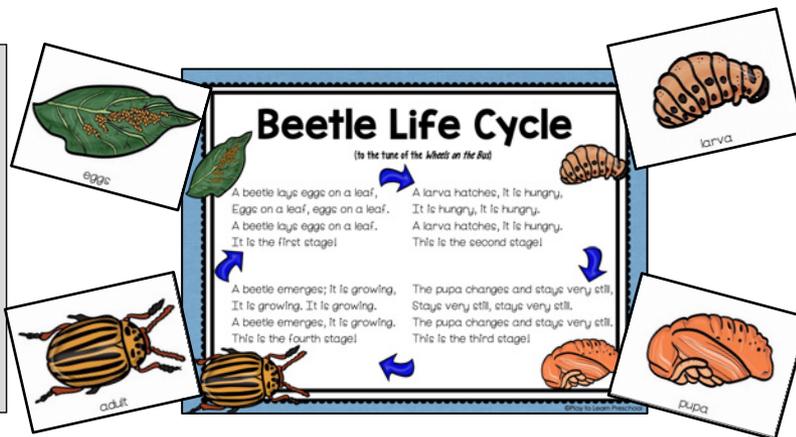
Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs of beetles. Discuss how the beetle life cycle is similar to the butterfly life cycle.
2. Sing the "Beetle Life Cycle" song as a class. Use picture cards for assistance with each verse.
3. Make copies of beetle labeling page. Review as a class. Then, allow students to label their own beetle page.



Extension Idea:

Purchase mealworms for your class to observe. (They are cheap and readily available at pet and sports stores.) Take notes on their appearance as they progress through the different stages of their lives.



Conclusion

Unit Conclusion

Day 10
lesson
plans

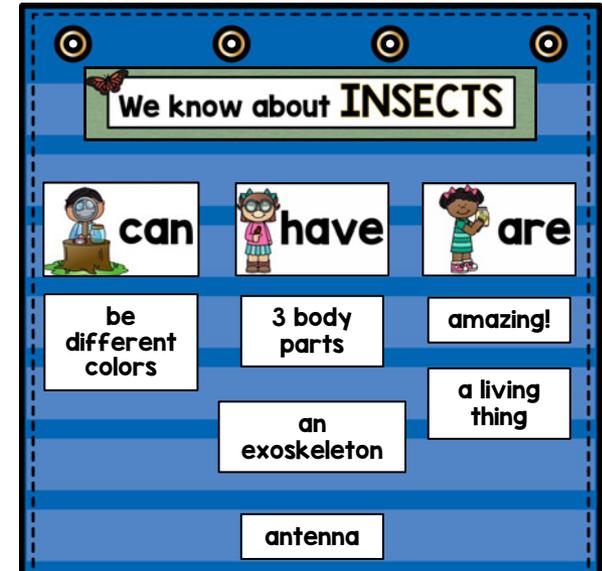
As we've learned, many animals can be classified as insects. There are thousands of different types of insects all over the world.

Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will interact and participate in circle time.

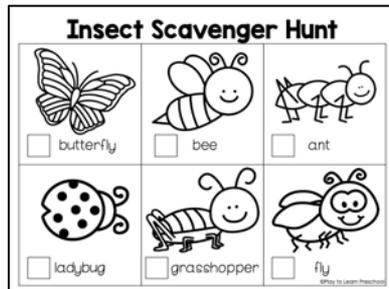
Activities:

1. Invite students to list things they have learned about insects. Write the ideas on index cards or sentence strips. Create a chart or poster using the can – have – are headers.
2. Create riddle bags. Place small plastic toys inside each bag and attach the riddle. (As an alternative, you can print the insect pictures and put them inside the bags.)



Extension Idea:

Go on an insect scavenger hunt using the attached sheet, or send home for families to use together. Remind students to only observe, not touch, the insects.



Center Activities

Centers

- Word Wall Cards
- Visual Discrimination
- Line Tracing
- Writing Practice
- Beginning Sound Sort
- Rhyming Sort
- Butterfly Symmetry
- Insect Patterns
- Caterpillar Measurement
- Counting Practice
- Book List (recommendations)

Word Wall Cards

Literacy Center

Use the cards in a pocket chart to make an insect word wall.

Provide pencils, crayons, paper, markers, etc. in the writing center and encourage the students to write letters and words from the wall.

Visual Discrimination

Literacy Center

File Folder Game

Objective: The students will use visual discrimination skills to match the items.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the larger pictures (front 2 pages) inside a file folder. Cut and laminate the smaller.

Procedure: Students place matching pictures.

Line Tracing

Literacy Center

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.

Preparation: Print and laminate these tracing cards. Another option is to place them inside a plastic sleeve. Provide dry erase markers. (Glue a pom-pom onto the lid of the marker for the students to use as an eraser!)

Writing Practice

Literacy Center

Objectives: The students will write letters.

Preparation: Copy each page and place into a plastic sleeve (or print on cardstock and laminate).

Procedure: Students use a dry erase marker to trace the word.

Beginning Sound Sort

Literacy Center

File Folder Game

Objectives: The students will identify the beginning sound of each word.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the cover on the front and the sorting mats on the inside. Cut and laminate the smaller pieces.

Procedure: Students sort the pictures by their beginning sound.

Rhyming Sort

Literacy Center

File Folder Game

Objectives: The students will recognize rhyming words.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the cover on the front and the sorting mats on the inside. Cut and laminate the smaller pieces.

Procedure: Students sort the pictures into two groups - words that rhyme with bee and words that rhyme with fly.

Insect Patterns

Math Center

The students will identify and extend simple patterns.

Objective: Print the pattern cards and pieces, mat, laminate and cut.

Procedure: Students identify the pattern and extend it by placing the pieces.

Caterpillar Measurement

Math Center

Objective: The students will explore nonstandard measurement.

Preparation: Print the caterpillar pieces, laminate, and cut apart.

Procedure: Students will use the caterpillar pieces to measure the length of common items in the classroom. (How many caterpillars long is a pencil?) As an optional enrichment activity for older children, students may record their measurements on the attached page.

Butterfly Symmetry

Math Center

Objective: The students will use symmetry to match the butterfly pieces.

Preparation: Copy each butterfly. Laminate and cut apart on the dotted lines.

Procedure: The students match the butterfly pieces using knowledge of symmetry.

Counting Practice

Math Center

The students will demonstrate one-to-one correspondence.

Objective: Print the cards, mat, laminate, and cut.

Procedure: Students identify the number on each animal. Then, they add clothes around the outside.