



Insects & Spiders

Grades: 3-5

Standards

Michigan K-12 Standards in Science

Next Generation Science Standards

STEM Connection

Explore how spiders and insects are adapted to their habitats.

Urban Futures Connection

Students will explore the relationship between local insect and spider diversity and the ecological health of urban areas.

Take Home

Activity worksheets are available via email upon request.

Overview

In this program students will use various techniques for finding, capturing, and observing insects and spiders in their natural habitats. The students will be prompted to make connections between their findings and ecological terms and concepts such as adaptation, biological diversity, indications of habitat health, and insect biomass.

Details

- This program lasts 2 hours and can be adapted to suit your needs
- Offered from June-October
- Appropriate for Grade Levels 3-8.

The Experience

In this program students will be engaged in a multifaceted program experience with activities that may include:

- Using an assortment of tools and techniques for field sampling of insects and spiders.
- Discovering a variety of local insect and spider species.
- Asking questions about the different insects and spiders we discover in our field sampling.
- Discussing how the presence of insects and spiders in a habitat can reveal important aspects of habitat health and function.
- Discussing the adaptations and life histories of some of the insects and spiders we observe.

Helpful Hints

This program will be held in the great outdoors, rain or shine. Please make sure students are dressed for the weather.

Science Standards

3rd Grade

3-LS3-2

Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.

- Students will discuss various adaptations of the insects and spiders they capture and observe.

4th Grade

4-LS1-1

Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

- Students will examine the structural adaptations of different insects and spiders they capture and observe.

5th Grade

5-LS2-1

Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

- Students will be asked to describe how insects integrate into the health and function of the habitat communities of which they are a part.