



Insects & Spiders

Grades: 6-8

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 connect local insect and spider abundance and species diversity to the larger urban ecological community.

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.
- Increasing their familiarity with local insect and spider genera.
- Discussing the importance of insects and spiders to other living things.

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

Grades 6th - 8th

MS-LS2-3

Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem. **

- Students will be asked to describe how insects and spiders connect into the landscape around them and will be asked to theorize what the world would look like if the insects went away.

MS-LS2-5

Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services. * **

- Students will examine the decline of insect and spider species across the globe, come up with possible reasons, and recommend solutions for increasing their diversity and populations..

MS-LS1-5

Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms. **

- Students will be asked to compare and contrast life histories of various species and consider how their niche traits play a role in survival.