

THE PARTS OF AN INSECT

Just as they can identify the parts of a plant, primary students enjoy identifying parts of animals. Teaching to all learning styles continues to be critical. In this lesson the children will capture and examine various insects, discuss them, read about them, write about them, and, using a draw software, print out their scientific and artistic interpretations of them. Learning about the importance of insects to our environment will also help them understand why they should treat them with respect and release them when through with their research.

Materials:

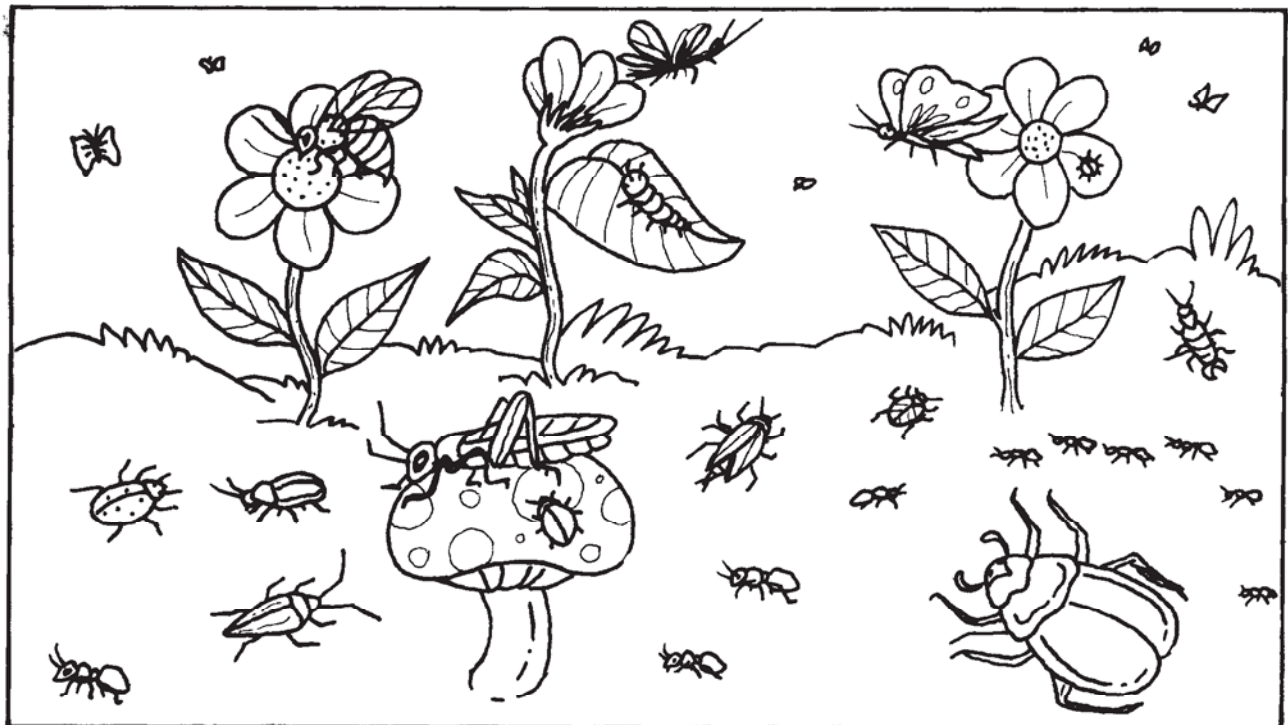
- reference books and library books about insects
- pictures and posters showing various insects
- live insects brought in by students or live insects caught on school grounds
- drawing paper and markers/crayons

Insect Reference Software

- *The Animals! 2.0 CD*
- *Zurk's Rainforest Lab*
- *Junior Nature Guides: Insects (ICE)*

Productivity Software

- *Kid Pix Studio*
- *Draw or Paint*



THE PARTS OF AN INSECT *(cont.)*

Procedure:

Into: Before the Computer

- Tell the children they are going to study live insects, and they need to bring one from home. They need to put it in a jar with one little hole punched in the lid.
- Or, you can take them out on the school grounds with jars and nets if you'd like. They should not attempt to bring in bees or wasps, since they can sting.
- Tell them they should not bring in spiders because they are not insects; they may already know this if the class has previously studied animal classification.
- Using the research materials, they can attempt to identify their insects.
- Have each child draw his/her interpretation of his/her insect, labeling its parts.

*For this activity *Paint* was used.

Through: On the Computer

- The children draw their interpretations of their insects on the computer, label the parts, and print their drawings.
- If appropriate, they can write sentences or paragraphs explaining the uses of the insect's parts.

Beyond: Extra Activities

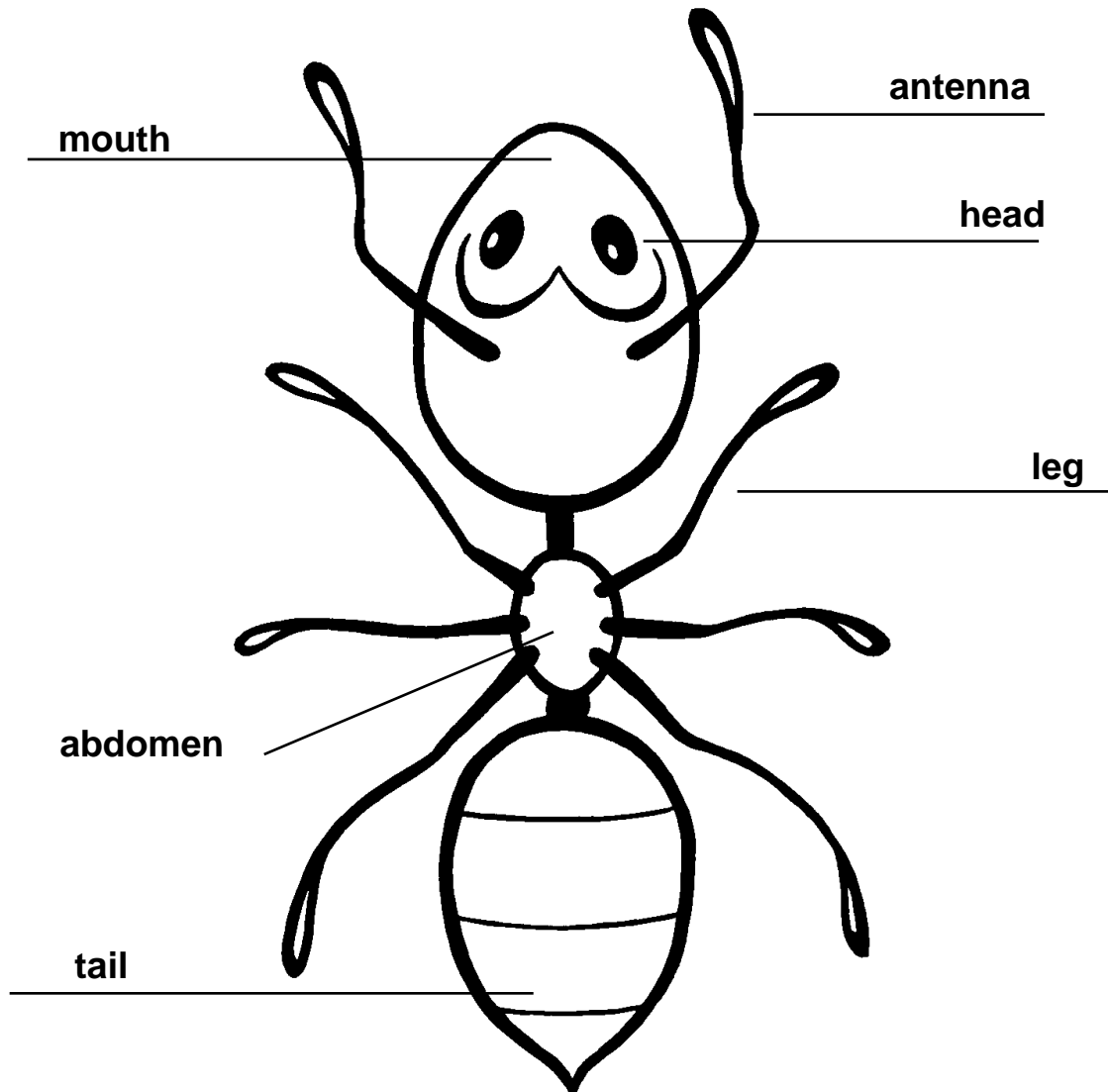
- The children also draw the habitats where they found their insects.
- Display their pictures on a bulletin board where other classes can see them.
- Staple the pictures together, design and laminate a cover, and assemble into an *Insect Book*.
- Repeat this activity with the other animal classifications. (Do not use live animal models for all; obviously, pictures will have to suffice for most.)
- Allow each child to create his/her own book of *Animal Parts*.

Internet Connections:

- http://www.dna.affrc.go.jp/htdocs/Ant.WWW/INTRODUCTION/Gakken79E/Page_02.html
- <http://cvs.anu.edu.au/andy/beye/beyehome.html>
- <http://www.orkin.com/ants/antindex.html>

THE PARTS OF AN INSECT (cont.)

Parts of An Insect



An insect is divided into three parts.

Its head is one part, its abdomen is one part, and its tail is one part.

An insect has two antennae, two eyes, and one mouth.

It has six legs.