

Insects - 1.75hr

Students will be able to collect and take a close look at various insects in the field. By using their observation skills and a simple key, they will be able to identify which group each insect belongs to. All insects will be released following the program and the importance of insects will be discussed.

Before you go

Inform students that they will be visiting Carpenter Nature Center to learn about the different groups of insects and how to identify them. Remind them that a large portion of the time will be outside so they should dress appropriately.

While you are here

- 0:00-0:30 Introduction—identifying and sorting different living and nonliving parts of nature and discussing the different types of insects and their lifecycles
- 0:30-1:15 Field experience—working in pairs student will collect and identify insects
- 1:15-1:30 Conclusion—the importance of insects

After you leave

Have students draw/design their own unique insect with the basic characteristics, and then adding special features.

Minnesota Standards

Carpenter Nature Center supplements standards by participating in benchmark activities. Listed below are benchmarks that students will participate in but not necessarily master.

Second Grade:

Code	Benchmark
2.2.1.1.1	Describe objects in terms of color, size, shape, weight, texture, flexibility, strength, and types of materials in the object
2.4.1.1.1	Describe and sort plants into groups in many ways according their physical characteristics and behaviors

Third Grade:

Code	Benchmark
3.1.1.1.1	Provide evidence to support claims, other than just saying “everyone knows that” or “I just know”, and questions such reasons when given by others
3.1.1.2.4	Construct reasonable explanations based on evidence collected from observations
3.1.2.4.1	Use tools including rulers, thermometers, magnifiers, and simple tools to improve observations and keep a record of the observations made
3.4.1.1.2	ID common groups of plants and animals using observable physical characteristics, structures, and behavior



Minnesota Campus

12805 St. Croix Trail

Hastings, MN 55033

Telephone: (651) 437-4359

www.carpenternaturecenter.org