

Insect Lesson Plan

Objective:

To teach students about various insects and particularly how they interact with the environment and the role they play.

Materials:

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*
- Construction paper (cut into various parts of insects- wings, heads, abdomens, thorax, antennae, etc.- see templates)
- Magnifying glass (if available)
- Glue/tape
- Markers (to decorate the insects)

Introduction:

- Role of insects;
 - Pollination (ex: bee)
 - Decomposition- help break down wood pieces into soil (ex: termite)
 - Soil enrichment/aeration (ex: ant)
 - Food- feed other animals, etc (ex: caterpillars)
- Remind students that insects can carry germs and disease so it is important to wash your hands and be careful (ex: ticks and mosquitos)

Activities:

Insect Song (sung to the tune of “Head, shoulders, knees, and toes”)

Head, Thorax, Abdomen... Abdomen

Head, Thorax, Abdomen...Abdomen

6 legs 2 Antennae

And Compound Eyes

Don't forget the ones with wings... Ones with wings!

Motions:

Head: point to head

Thorax: point to stomach area

Abdomen: point to rear and shake

6 legs: show 6 fingers

2 Antennae: with index finger wiggling above head

Compound Eyes: hands cupped like "c" around eyes

Wings: interlock hands at thumbs and wiggle fingers in flying motion

1. Once the students have learned the song (and consequently about the parts of an insect), allow them to construct their own insect using pre-cut body parts, markers to decorate, and glue.

2. Class trip to the garden (if weather permits): Once the students have learned about insects and their role in the environment take a class trip outside to the garden and see if you can find an example of the bugs

Sources:

<http://iitc.tamu.edu/lessons/lesson47.html>

http://www.sbbg.org/_ccLib/downloads/Insects_Benefits_and_Detriments.pdf