

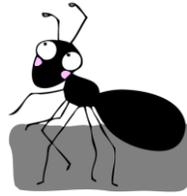
Journaling: Hard Working Insects

Essential Question(s):

What do insect homes look like?

At a Glance:

Learners will search for different kinds of insect homes and prepare a journal entry about what they discovered.



Background Information:

This activity can also be found on the October page of the GEN calendar.

See the Pest and Disease Control module's Educator Background Information section for more details on insects as positive members of the ecosystem and as pests.

See *How to Make a Nature Journal* in the Ecosystem Module for further background information and instructions on how to make a nature journal.

Procedure:

1. Discuss insects as beneficial members of the ecosystem, even though we see some as pests.
2. Ask learners to name a few insect homes and what they look like. Why do insects have different types of homes (some in the ground, some in trees)?
3. Give a brief overview of the 'Hard Working Insects' journal entry. Tell learners to use caution when looking at insect homes. Be careful not to disturb the insects and to avoid bites or stings.
4. Learners will need to walk around and explore the area before starting their journal writing. Provide learners with magnifying glasses, if available.
5. Allow learners to find a quiet place outside with their journals and/or 'Hard Working Insects' worksheet. To start, have learners record the date, time, and surroundings of their journal entry.
6. Give learners time to read through and complete the journaling activity (15-20 minutes).
7. Gather learners back together and allow those who want to share to discuss their journal entries.

Discussion:

Name some different insect homes that were found.

Why do insects have different type homes?

What impact do their homes have on the ecosystem?

What kind of insect were you?

Were you a predator or prey? How did that feel?

Did you face any problems as an insect?

Hard Working Insects

Location: Classroom and outdoors

Objectives: Learners will

- 1) explore creative aspects of journaling.
- 2) compare different insect homes.

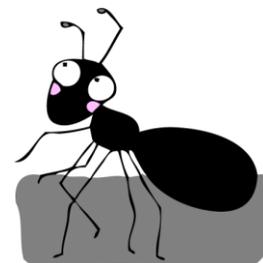
Skills: reflection, creative and technical writing, questioning, expression, perception

Supplies:

- Journal or 'Hard Working Insects' worksheet
- Pencil or pen
- Magnifying glass (optional)

Subjects: science, language arts, art.

Time: 15 minutes



Insects are fascinating! There are some insects that can cause a lot of damage to our gardens, but many insects do a lot of good. Did you ever wonder where the many kinds of insects make their home? Insects live under rocks and fallen logs, among leaf litter, within the bark of trees, and in the water, among other places. Have you seen any of these insect homes? What about an anthill? Though we often think of ants as pests, the tunnels in the ground allow air and water into the soil. That's a great help! Spiders construct great webs to catch their insect prey. Spiders aren't insects, of course, they are arachnids, but they do a wonderful job eating insect pests. Go outside and see if you can find some insects. Where do they live? Do any of them have a really neat home? Perhaps their home is in a gall on a tree or other plant.

Record how many different kinds of insects and insect homes you find. Draw a picture of the coolest insect you found and where it lives.

Insect	Insect Home	My Favorite Insect

Use the area below and the back of this sheet to write a journal entry as if you are an insect that works in the Pest and Disease Control Department. Are you a predator or a prey? Where do you live? What do you eat?

I am a _____ insect.