

Insect Safari

FOURTH GRADE

The school garden habitat supports an abundance of life, especially when it comes to critters. In fact, the garden contains more insect inhabitants than plants! Though most insects gain attention for their unwanted characteristics, the truth is that insects play an important role in our ecosystem. Students will go on an Insect Safari to locate insects and identify their usefulness.

SUBJECT

SCIENCE

TIME

30 MIN - 45 MIN

MATERIALS

Insect field guide, one per pair of students

Access to an iPad, one per pair of students

Insect Safari Worksheet, 1 per student

Pencils, 1 per student

Clipboards, 1 per student

DIRECTIONS

- Introduce the activity by asking students about what kinds of insects might be found in the school garden. Then ask whether the bugs are helpful or harmful and explain how they help or harm. Insects that are helpful in the garden are called beneficial insects. Some examples of beneficial insects are butterflies and bees because they are pollinators and help plants make fruit. Bees also make honey for people to eat. Harmful bugs, like snails and aphids, eat plants and make it hard for them to thrive.
- Explain to students that they will go on an insect safari around the school garden to see what insects they can find, and then use the insect field guide to find out the name of the bug and use their iPad to research more information about it. Explain that the Field Guide shows “Good Garden Bugs” on one side and “Bad Garden Bugs” on the other side.
- Remind students to check under rocks, look very closely at leaves for signs of bug activity (like holes where they’ve been eaten), and task them to use their keen observation skills to locate bugs. Students should use caution and not touch spiders or bees.
- Ask students to fill in the Insect Safari Worksheet for every insect they find. To close the activity, bring the class together and ask them to share the information they learned about the insects they found in the garden.

SOURCE

- BCK Programs



Insect Safari Worksheet

Name: _____

Write the name of each insect you find in the spaces below.	Where did you find it?	Write a description of it. Is it a beneficial insect or a harmful insect? How do you know?

