



Six-Legged Race

Materials: Arthropod Cards (see list below)

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Identify the main characteristics of an insect (three body segments, three pairs of legs)
- Determine the difference between insects and other arthropods

Background:

Insects are a class of arthropods with specific characteristics. All insects have three body parts – head, thorax, and abdomen. All insects have a hard outer covering called an exoskeleton and three pairs of jointed legs (for a total of six legs.) See the diagram on the following page.

Spiders are not considered insects, because they have two body segments and eight legs. Centipedes may have many body segments and have one pair of legs for each segment. Millipedes have two pairs of legs for each body segment. Crustaceans, such as hermit crabs, shrimp, and pill bugs (roly polies), are also classified as arthropods.

Challenge:

1 – Divide students into teams of three. Have the students loop their arms together so they form an insect with three “body segments” and six legs.

2 – Line up two teams at the starting line and challenge them to race to the Bug Pit to find an insect. The team needs to pick up an insect and return it to the judge at the starting line. Each team needs to race for three insects to win the round. If a team brings back an animal that is not an insect, they will need to go back to the Bug Pit to find an insect.

NOTE: Insect teams must stay together during the race. If not, the team loses any insects they have collected and must return to the starting line.

3 – Continue with the competition by having the top teams from each round compete until you have one winner.

4 – Award prizes to the team that wins.

Arthropod Cards: Find pictures of the animals listed below to use to create a set of cards for this activity. You do not need to include all the animals listed. Create a set of at least 20 cards that includes a mixture of insects along with other arthropods. Laminate the cards if possible to keep them in good shape for future Bug Festivals.

Ant	Crab	Horseshoe Crab	Scorpion
Bee	Crane Fly	Lady Bug	Shrimp
Beetle	Damselfly	Lobster	Sowbug
Butterfly	Dragonfly	Millipede	Spider
Caterpillar	Fly	Mosquito	Tick
Centipede	Grasshopper	Moth	Walking Stick
Cicada	Hermit Crab	Praying Mantis	Wasp

Insect Anatomy

