



Mighty Bug Hunters Scavenger Hunt

Materials: Insect nets, small containers for bugs, identification guides (optional), volunteers for Bug Judges, stamps or stickers for judges

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Identify insects by common name
- Identify insects that use defense mechanisms (camouflage, spikes, odor, etc.)
- Describe the differences between insects from various orders

Background:

Insects are a diverse group of arthropods that inhabit every corner of the earth. Scientists classify insects into orders based on their unique characteristics. Some common orders include:

- Lepidoptera - Butterflies and moths
- Coleoptera - Beetles and weevils
- Hymenoptera - Bees, wasps, and ants
- Orthoptera - Grasshoppers and crickets
- Odonata - Dragonflies and damselflies
- Diptera – Flies and mosquitoes
- Hemiptera - True bugs
- Homoptera – Cicada, leafhoppers, and aphids
- Phasmida - Walking sticks
- Mantodea – Praying mantids

Insects vary depending on their size, colors, the types of foods they eat (plants, nectar, other insects), how they move (walk, slither, fly), how they defend themselves (coloring, eyespots, odors, spikes), and type of metamorphosis. During this activity students will have an opportunity to search for insects in their school yard or nature area and identify characteristics that make them unique.

Challenge:

- 1 - Divide the students into teams of 3-4 people.
- 2 – Pass out the Mighty Bug Hunters worksheet and go over the instructions.
- 3 – Allow 20-30 minutes for the teams to search for insects. Provide Bug Judges with stamps to mark the team worksheets for the insects they find.
- 4 – Determine the winner of the challenge and award prizes to the members of that team.

Optional: Best Bug Competition

You may want to award special prizes for teams that find unique or unusual bugs. Categories may include: Most Colorful Bug, Ugliest Bug, Biggest Bug, Smallest Bug, and Best Camouflage.



Nighty Bug Hunters Scavenger Hunt

Team Members: _____

Search the garden and schoolyard to find bugs that match each of the items below.
Each bug you find can only be used for one box!

When you find a bug, put it into a container and take it to an Official Bug Judge to earn a stamp. The first team to get a stamp in all the squares will be the winner!

Find an insect with 3 or more colors	Find an insect that does not have wings	Find an insect that would live in a hive or colony	Find an insect with chewing mouth parts
Find an insect that would have incomplete metamorphosis	Find an insect that is longer than 3 inches	Find an insect that uses odor to keep away predators	Find an insect with four wings
Find an insect with sucking mouth parts	Find an insect that is able to blend in with its surroundings	Find an insect with only two wings	Find an insect that would have complete metamorphosis