

Insect Life Cycle Scavenger Hunt

Classroom Activity

SYNOPSIS

Students will go on a scavenger hike on their school grounds to find and identify different stages in the insect life cycle.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- identify different stages of the insect life cycle
- demonstrate observation skills

VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS

- observe
- larva
- cocoon
- pupa
- egg
- 3-stage life cycle (egg, nymph, adult: dragonfly, grasshopper, etc.)
- 4-stage life cycle (egg, larva, pupa, adult: butterfly, crane fly, etc.)

MATERIALS

- access to an outdoor area that has some plants and nature (ideally a stream)
- magnifying lens (1/student)
- worksheet (included)

PROCEDURE

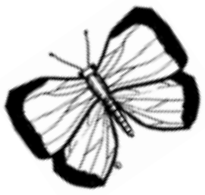
1. Show students photographs (or have them look on the Internet) of insects at different stages and explain the difference between the 3- and 4- stage life cycle.
2. Explain to the students the importance of making careful observations.
3. Provide the students with magnifying lenses and the worksheet and have them go outside to work on their insect life cycle scavenger hunt. If not all of the stages are present, have the students draw what they think it would look like (based on prior experience or the photographs you showed them in class.)

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- Have the students create a 3- and 4- stage life cycle chart using construction paper, glue, and other materials such as cotton balls, toothpicks, etc.

EXTENSION

- Raise butterflies, beetles, or other insects in the classroom (egg to adult).



Insect Life Cycle Scavenger Hunt



Find each stage of an insect and draw it in the box.



1. Look for eggs (often on underside of leaves), or insects laying eggs

2. Look for cocoons or pupa cases

3. Look for nymphs: grasshoppers without wings, small earwigs, wingless leaf hoppers, dragonfly nymphs in the water

4. Look for larvae: caterpillars, inchworms, leaves eaten by larvae

5. Look for adults: butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, crickets, bees, ants, fleas, beetles, etc.