



Who will be the next Etymologist?

Work in groups, partners, or individually. Because we know the same kids probably won't be there every week, there can be an entomologist of the week. Take photos of the participants holding bug hunting supplies – hat, net, trap. If possible (and you have the room), display the projects.

Tasks:

1. **“Come One, Come All!”** Design a poster for a flea circus.
2. **“Build a Better Beehive”** Sculpt a hive out of modeling clay using a tall cup or bowl for the basic shape. What elements would you add to distinguish it from other hives?
3. **“You’re Invited”** Choose a theme and design a menu for a perfect picnic guaranteed to attract ants. Suggestions: birthday party, BBQ, holiday. For a super challenge, design the table settings and decorations.
4. **“Read This If You Dare”** Read *Diary of a Worm*, *Diary of a Spider*, or *Diary of a Fly* by Doreen Cronin with pictures by Harry Bliss. Choose an insect or bug and design a diary cover. Write a sample entry.
5. **“Game On!”** Choose a bug or insect and design a game. This could be a board game, a card game, or a take-off of a TV game show (The Flies are Right, Cockroach Concentration).
6. **“Hide and Seek”** Cut out pictures of leaves, rocks, shells from old magazines or calendars. Arrange and hide pictures of bugs among them in an I Spy type picture.
7. **“Guess the Guest”** (inspired by Laura Ingraham) How much do you really know about insects? Give each participant an answer cube. Mark a large square box with A, B, C, D, True, and False. Contestants line up side by side. Those with the correct answer get to step forward while incorrect answers stay where they are. Player with the most correct answers wins this challenge.

Sample trivia from *Bugs and Spiders* – Dee Phillips – Blue Zoo Guides, 2006

Ants

Thousands of different kinds
Eat tiny insects
Like sweet nectar
Live in a group called a colony

Bedbugs

Found in your room
Parasites that bite
Hide during the day and come out at night
Bites cause bumps

Butterfly

Live only for a short time
Mouth shaped like a straw to drink nectar from flowers
Two pairs of colorful wings

Centipede

Don't actually have 100 legs – but may have as few as 30 or as many as 254
Live in damp places under rocks, logs, and fallen leaves

Cockroach

Found in places where food is stored
Eat almost anything – even soap
Can run fast
Hide in dark places, come out at night

Dung beetle

Eats the dung of other insects
Keep the planet clean
Strong legs dig tunnels
Some lay eggs in a ball of dung to provide food for infants

Firefly

End of abdomen lights up to flash at night and attract a mate
Wing cases close over wings to protect them

Flea

Parasite
Each different kind lives on a different host – cats, dogs

Can leap as high as 6 inches to land on a host animal

Fly

Beat wings 200 times a second.

Use saliva to turn fruit and other plant material into liquid food

Have tiny hooks and sticky pads on feet to hang upside down

Taste their food with hairs on their feet

Giant millipede

Have between 100 and 300 legs.

Eats dead plants and rotting wood

Live under rocks, rotting logs, or fallen leaves

Don't see very well

If danger is sensed, curl up so head and soft underside are protected

Grasshopper

Excellent jumper

Eats grasses and other plants

Males rub back legs against leathery wings to create a sound

Honey bee

Spends much of its time collecting nectar and pollen

Uses some of that to make honey

Lives in a home called a hive

Ladybug

Kind of beetle

Eats aphids

Hibernates under logs or leaves

Moth

Not colorful wings

Active at night

Eats nectar from flowers

Feathery antennae

Often lays eggs on underside of leaves

Praying mantis

Belongs to the cockroach family

Large eyes to spot prey

Eats other insects such as butterflies and beetles
Spiky front legs used to grab other insects
Before pouncing, holds up front legs as if praying

Snail

Lot like a slug but with a hard shell
Some live in ponds and oceans
Can pull its body inside its shell and seal up the opening to keep from drying out

8. **“Be Good Out There!”** Read the story of Crickwing by Janell Cannon. What good deed can you do for someone? Do it!
9. **“And It’s Tasty, Too!”** Decorate a large round, store bought cookie to look like a bug. This could be judged in categories: most realistic, most alien, goofiest, most colorful, and so on. After judging, everyone munches while sipping bug juice (green-colored Sprite or a juice of your choice).
10. **“Super Tasty Treat Challenge”** Find a recipe involving insects, make it, and eat it!
11. **“Extra, Extra, Read All About It!”** Write a news article about the discovery of a new bug. Name it and draw a picture of it. Profile yourself as the discoverer, answering such questions as where did you find it, were you scared, who was the first person you told, and so on.
12. **“Parts”** Create a bug out of recycled materials. Name it and describe where it lives, what it eats, its size, and how it protects itself.

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