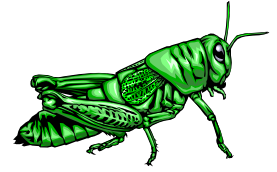


Arthropod Activity



For this activity you will need:

1. Notetaking materials.
2. A live insect such as a beetle, ant, cricket, grasshopper or butterfly.
 - Find one in your backyard or on campus. In the winter, insects are most active during the warmest part of the day.
 - If you turn on your porch light at night, you can watch the insects on your screen.
3. An arthropod - sow bug (roly-poly), millipede or centipede.
 - These organisms can be found in leaf litter on a forest floor such as the Natural Area Teaching Lab which is West and Southwest of the ENY building.
 - These organisms can also be found near buildings in moist areas like mulch or under bushes close to a house or under rocks, stepping stones, and old bricks.
 - *Note: If you are unable to find #3, then you can get a shrimp, lobster or whole crab from the grocery store. (Now is a great time to invite a buddy to have a nice seafood dinner with you. After all, this is a class assignment. Hey, maybe mom and dad could pick up the tab.)*

Activity:

1. For 5-10 minutes, observe the insect.
 - Pay close attention to the way it moves and what it looks like.
 - If you're brave, pick up the insect and hold him in your hand. (Please don't attempt this if your insect is a fire ant, bee, or wasp.)
2. Write down your observations.
 - Be sure to include notes about the antennal movements, the feet and leg movements, the ways the wings fold or flap, characteristics of the head, and type of mouthparts.
 - Why do you think they move this way? (defense, grooming, for speed, etc.)
 - Does your specimen seem adapted for a certain habitat? (aquatic, terrestrial, arboreal)
 - Why would its structure make it more able to survive?
3. Compare the insect and the other animal (non-insect arthropod) you have.
 - How are they different from each other (list at least six differences)?
 - Is there a different type of body arrangement?
 - How are they different from you (list at least six differences)?

