



Insect Investigations for Ages 5-12

Looking for insects and other invertebrates is a great way to explore and learn more about different micro-habitats. We can discover more about how these animals survive in many human and natural landscapes too!

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:

An outdoor space and an empty plastic jar

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

Magnifying glass.



1. Different invertebrates have different favorite places. Take a look outside and think about where you would go if you were a bee, ant, or millipede. Would all of these animals live in the same places?
2. Find a rock, log, or lots of leaves on the ground. Carefully roll the rock or log toward your body or gently lift leaves up to look for critters living beneath. Can you find any invertebrates or evidence of animals here?
3. Look closely in the grass. With your nose to the ground, there's a lot to be found! What critters do you see?
4. Find a tree with bumpy bark and look very closely. Are there any insects hiding in the nooks and crannies? These spaces are good, safe areas for small animals to hide.
5. Once you find an animal that you want to see closer, use a clean jar to gently scoop the animal into, using a leaf to help coax the animal inside. Using these motions instead of pinching or grabbing the animal with your hands can keep you and the animal safe from any harm, especially if you don't know what you're capturing.
6. Look at the animal up close and notice its different body parts and behaviors. You can even draw what it looks like so that you remember it. Don't forget to gently release it back where you found it once you have made observations!

TO FURTHER EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY:

For more information on how to look under rocks, watch this video on [SciShow Kids](#) or learn more about pill bugs through [PBS](#).