

Lake Mead

Environmental Education

National Recreation Area
National Park Service



CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Grade 2 - "Going Buggy"



Theme

Although many people are "bugged" by bugs (arthropods), these animals use the same senses as us and have learned how to use them in different and amazing ways.

Objectives

Students will observe a variety of bugs common to our area.
Students will compare the differences between insects and arachnids.
Students will describe at least one way humans and other animals are dependent upon bugs.
Students will learn how bugs use their senses to live.

Vocabulary



arachnid - any of a large group of arthropods with eight jointed legs and a body usually divided into two segments (spiders and scorpions are arachnids)
arthropod - any of a large group of animals (crabs, insects, spiders) with an external skeleton, jointed limbs, and a body made up of segments
compound eye - one type of eye found on an insect that is made up of many facets, each of which "sees" one part of the whole picture
entomologist - a scientist who studies insects
insect - any of a large group of arthropods with six jointed legs and a body formed of three parts (beetles, flies, bees, and lice are insects)

Background Information

Whether you're studying butterflies, beetles, spiders, scorpions, you're learning about the *phylum* Arthropoda, the largest classification in the animal kingdom. Arthropods include insects, spiders, scorpions, and crustaceans. Insects are the largest *class* of animals with 800,000 *known* species. Insects use five senses, like humans, to help them survive. Each of the ways insects use their senses is complex, but without the instinctual use of senses many of our arthropods on earth would die. Since arthropods are an important source of food for many fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals, the survival of arthropods on earth is critical to most members of the food chain. Arthropods are even essential to humans, as they provide both a direct and indirect source of food.

Before the Ranger Visits your Classroom

Discuss with your students what bugs they like and dislike and why. Ask students if they think they share anything in common with bugs and make a list with the class.

After the Ranger Visits your Classroom

Allow students time to investigate the bugs around them. Have each student find a bug and draw a picture of it. Is the bug an insect, a spider, or some other type of arthropod? Have the students think how their bug might use one of its senses to help it survive.



Teachers! - check out our new web site at <http://www.nps.gov/lame/classindex.htm>