



Imaginary Insect Zoo

Teacher Information

Students have learned about a wide variety of insects in this book. This culminating activity provides a method of assessment.

Overview: *Students will make imaginary insects which have the essential characteristics of an insect, such as six legs and three body parts.*

Materials

- variety of items for construction of insects (e.g., pipe cleaners, egg cartons, cellophane)
- scissors
- glue gun
- white glue
- pictures of a variety of colorful and unusual insects
- copies of parent letter (page 46)
- copies of data sheet This Is My Insect (page 47)

Lesson Preparation

- Send letters to the parents requesting their assistance in gathering materials to use in creating fanciful insects.
- Assemble a variety of materials students can use in their construction, such as cardboard, crepe paper, paint, paper clips, and other school supplies.
- Set up a hot-glue area (operated by an adult) if students need creations glued this way.
- Place colorful and unusual insect pictures on a bulletin board. Put books of insects nearby.

Activity

1. As a post test, give the pretest *Is This an Insect?* that was used at the beginning of the study of insects. Have students discuss the results of the test and encourage them to tell how they can distinguish an insect from a noninsect.
2. Explain that students are going to make an insect zoo from imaginary insects that they create. Distribute the parent letter to each student and read and discuss it so they know what to collect for their insect constructions.
3. Show students the pictures of insects on the bulletin board and in books you have provided. Let them examine these to get some ideas about the materials they might need to make an insect.
4. After collecting materials, place them in a central area, permitting students to share the materials if they wish to do so. Review what makes an insect different from a noninsect.
5. Let students work on their imaginary insects. Allow sufficient time, perhaps several days.

Closure

- Distribute copies of the data sheet *This Is My Insect* to students and let them complete it to tell about their creation.
- Set aside an area for the insect zoo and arrange the students' insect models in it. Put each child's description with his or her model. Have students make invitations for other classes and parents, inviting them to visit the zoo.

Imaginary Insect Zoo *(cont.)*

Parent Letter for Insect Materials

Date _____

Dear Parents,

Your child has learned much about insects as our class looked at a wide variety of insects brought from areas around our houses and school grounds. We have also raised mealworms, ants, butterflies, and silkworms. Now, we are ready to create our own unique zoo of imaginary insects. We need your help in gathering the materials students can use to create their imaginary insects. Some of these are listed below:

- aluminum foil
- pipe cleaners
- thin wire
- feathers
- colored cellophane
- small buttons
- toilet tissue rolls
- egg cartons

We have looked at pictures of many different types of insects to give the students ideas. Talk with your child, asking what may be needed to make his or her insect. If you can spare extra items beyond those your child will use, they will be gratefully accepted for other students to use.

The class will begin to create the insects on _____. Please send the materials to school with your child before this date. Our Imaginary Insect Zoo should be ready for you to visit within a week after we begin construction. You will receive a notice announcing its grand opening and inviting you to visit.

Thank you for your help in enriching our study of insects.

Cordially,



Imaginary Insect Zoo *(cont.)*

This is My Insect

Name: _____ Date: _____

Insect's Name: _____.

It eats _____.

Tell how your insect can . . .

• **smell:** _____

• **hear:** _____

• **see:** _____

• **taste:** _____

• **eat:** _____

• **move around:** _____

• **protect itself:** _____

Make a drawing to show your insect's life cycle.

