

## INSECT EXPLORERS' SERIES: INSECT DETECTIVE

Insect detective is an interesting exploratory activity wherein students get an opportunity to explore insect habitats and learn about them. Through this activity students will pick up tell-tale signs of insect presence and conclude their findings.

**Learning Objectives:** After this activity students will learn

- Exploration skills such as observation, examination, goal-setting and engaging activities
- About insect habitats and their habits
- To get over individual phobias about insects
- To use inquiry method to know about insects

**Group size:** 3-5 students

**Duration:** 1 hour.

**Requirement:** Insect Detective Card for each group, magnifying hand lens, blunt forceps, plastic jars, insect viewing boxes, Insect Data Sheet.

**Method:**

- Identify a wild area with good ground cover for exploration.
- Provide a set of requirements for each group
- Explain students to look out for direct as well as indirect evidences of insect presence in the area. Refer the Insect Data Sheet for examples of evidences
- Inform students that they could collect non-living evidences but not live insects/plants
- Students need to record their findings in Insect Data Sheet.
- Students need to analyze their data by answering questions in the datasheet.
- Make students to present their conclusions to encourage shared learning.
- Evidences could be carried back to Science Center or could be left in the same area.

**Precaution:** The exploratory area should be within the visibility range of the instructors. The student activities do not cause any damage to the habitat. Any upturned stones, logs need to be placed back in the original position.

















## INSECT EXPLORER'S DATA SHEET 2

**Name of Student Group:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location** : \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date** : \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** : \_\_\_\_\_

Use this data sheet to record and describe your findings. See the examples given on the back

| Name of the Evidence Your Group saw/collected | Tick off the right option | Describe in brief in your own words |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Insect home                                   | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Insect Eggs or Egg case                       | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Half-eaten leaves by insects                  | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Insect hide out                               | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Plant Gall                                    | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Flowering plants                              | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Alive Insect Larvae                           | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Alive Adult Insects                           | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| cocoon or empty chrysalis                     | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Insect Dropping                               | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Insect predator                               | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Rotten Wood log                               | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Insect Damage                                 | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Insect Relatives                              | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Water Insects                                 | Yes/No                    |                                     |
| Insect Camouflage                             | Yes/No                    |                                     |

EXAMPLES OF INSECT EVIDENCE

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
|  <p>ANT</p>                         |  <p>INSECT<br/>PREDATOR</p> |  <p>INSECT<br/>EGG CASE</p>     |  <p>INSECT HOME</p>        |
|  <p>INSECT FOOD</p>                 |  <p>INSECT<br/>RELATIVE</p> |  <p>BEETLE</p>                  |  <p>GALL</p>               |
|  <p>COCOON</p>                    |  <p>BEE</p>               |  <p>BUTTERFLY</p>              |  <p>INSECT<br/>DAMAGE</p> |
|  <p>INSECT EGGS<br/>OR LARVAE</p> |  <p>GRASSHOPPER</p>       |  <p>INSECT<br/>CAMOUFLAGE</p> |  <p>WATER INSECT</p>     |

**Conclusion**

Based on the evidence you collected what you infer about the habitat you explored for insect life? Mention about how many species co-exist in the habitat and what helps them co-exist.

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