

Inspired by Insects Science Club – Teacher's Notes

Session 2 – Let's find some insects!

Session Outcomes

Children will:



learn where and how to find insects, using different techniques



use their knowledge of insect orders to identify insects



begin to collect data about what they have found.

Resources and preparation:

- *Inspired by Insects* Presentation
- Collecting equipment, such as small pots or tubes and trays for observation
- Insect nets, if available
- White sheet of cloth or a laminated A3 piece of white paper to use whilst 'tree beating'
- Magnifying glasses
- Clipboards and pencils, if available
- Copies of the *HOPE for the Future* recording sheet
- Identification resources, if possible (see list of recommended resources at [HOPE Learning for Teachers | Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#))

Health and Safety:

Children should be made aware of stinging insects, such as bees and wasps, and be warned not to collect stinging insects, just to observe them.

The area you are going to use should have been checked for litter and other dangers prior to the children going outside.

Session Plan:

Slide 1 - Explain that this week we are going to go outside to see what insects we can find.

Slide 2 and 3 - *Where do you think you might find insects in the school grounds?*

Encourage the children to think like an insect! *If you were an insect, where would you like to live?* Encourage them to think about all the different vegetation in the school grounds, including trees, flowers and grass. Insects might also be hiding underneath logs, stones or leaves and some insects may be spotted flying in the air.

Slide 4 and 5 - *How do you think we might find and observe insects?*

Answers may include looking carefully, using nets (if available), collecting in pots/tubs and looking at insect finds in trays.

Slide 6 – You can also find insects that live in bushes and trees by using a method called ‘beating’.

Video – watch the video to learn how to use the beating technique: [Finding insects in trees and bushes](#)

Slide 7 – Prepare to go outside. Remind the children about the Big 5 orders that they learnt about last week. Challenge them to find insects in all of the 5 orders. Show the children any equipment that you have to help them (see list of resources for suggestions). You might like to introduce the recording sheet at this stage. However, you could also discuss this later, after children have had a chance to have a good look for insects without the need to record.

Whilst you are outside, share finds with the group. If the children have pots or tubes, insects can be collected and shared. Take photographs and send these to the museum. We would love to see them!

Slide 8 – Discuss what you found. *Where did you find the most insects? Which orders of insect did you find? Did you find any insects that you know the name of? Did anything surprise you?*

Ask the children if they would like to ask the museum anything. You might like to compose an email with the children and send in your questions and photos. (hopelearning@oum.ox.ac.uk)

Slide 9 - Looking ahead to next week: **Making insect hotels and planning an insect investigation.**