




Inspired by Insects Science Club

Session 3 – Insect Investigations

Session Outcomes:

Children will:

-  make insect hotels to use in an investigation
-  plan all aspects of an insect investigation – devising a question, making a prediction, planning what to do and what to observe and record
-  set up their investigation.

Resources and Preparation:

- *Inspired by Insects* Presentation
- 1lt clean plastic bottles with the top and bottom cut off to form a tube. (Last week the children were asked to bring these to the session but it may be good to have some spares.)
- A range of natural materials for the ‘filling’ of the insect hotels, eg leaves, grass, small sticks. These can be collected with the children during the session or you might like to have a supply ready if you think it would be challenging for the children to collect enough.
- *HOPE for the Future* Investigation planning sheet
- *HOPE for the Future* Recording sheet

Session Plan:

During this session, children will work in pairs or small groups to plan an insect investigation that they can carry out using insect hotels they have made.

Slide 1 - Explain that this week we are going to make insect hotels that we will use in an insect investigation. You might like to have an example of an insect hotel to show. The children will plan and set up an insect investigation, leave the hotels for a week and then look at them to find the answer to their investigation question.

Slide 2 – The first step is for the children to think of an investigation question. Remember that they will be using insect hotels to answer the questions. Have a look at the example questions on the *Inspired by Insects* Presentation.

What would you do to carry out each of these investigations? How would you make sure your investigations were fair? What would you keep the same and what would you change? What would you observe/record?

Example Questions	What would you do?	What would you record?
Do different insects prefer insect hotels with grass or leaves?	Make 2 insects hotels, identical except for the 'filling'. One would have grass and the other leaves.	Use the recording sheet to record the number of insects in each of the Big 5 orders for each of the different hotels.
Do we find more insects in long grass or short grass?	Make 2 identical insect hotels and site them in two different areas of the school grounds.	Use the recording sheet to record the number of insects in each of the Big 5 orders for the two different locations, or just count the number of insects in each location.
Which order of insects is the most commonly found in insect hotels in our wildlife area?	Make 1 insect hotel and site it in the particular location stated in your question.	Use the recording sheet to record the number of insects in each of the Big 5 orders.

What would you like to find out?

Working in pairs or small groups, children should think about what they noticed about insects in your school grounds last week, the different habitats and areas you have available, and then come up with an investigation question.

Slide 4 – 9 – You could use this template to plan your investigations and to help children think about the different elements of planning and carrying out an investigation.

You may feel that you do not want each group to complete a planning sheet, but looking at an example is a useful tool in helping children to think about exactly what they are going to do to answer their question.

Slide 10 - Introduce the recording sheet and model how it could be completed. You may already have used this sheet in Session 2. Remember, next week, when the children look at what is in their insect hotels, they will need two different sheets if their investigation involves two different insect hotels.

Slide 11-12 – Instructions for how to make the insect hotels. See the separate instruction sheet. You might like to make the insect hotels outside so that the children can collect nesting materials to put in them. They are best made in a tray so that they can easily be transported to the required site.

Slide 13 – Time to go outside and site the insect hotels in the school grounds.

Slide 14 – Remember to get in touch. Send your investigation questions, photos or any questions you have to us at hopelearning@oum.ox.ac.uk

Slide 15 – Looking ahead to next week: we will be finding out the results of our investigations.