

Summer Science Activity: Insectology

Make-Your-Own Butterfly Net

Materials:

- Wooden dowel (3' long) or broom handle
 - Wire coat hanger or 5' of heavy wire
 - Old pillowcase
 - Duct tape
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Procedure:

Unwind the coat hanger and straighten it (or use straight wire).

Take the pillowcase and cut two slits on either side of the seams at the top. Feed the wire through the hem of the pillowcase, bending it into a circle as you go along.

Wrap the ends of the hanger or wire around the top of the broom handle. Now wrap the wire ends tightly with duct tape. Lay the butterfly net down flat on the ground while taping, so that the hoop part lies flat above the handle.

Start Your Own Insect Collection

Materials:

- Glass jars
 - Scotch® Double-Sided Tape
 - White foam core board
 - Straight pins
 - Post-it® Notes to record info such as date and location of catch, species name, etc.
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Procedure:

- Check out some books about insect collecting at your local library, and browse the Internet. You may choose to invest in display cases and professional supplies, but start with this basic setup to get the hang of it.
- Collect bugs that are already dead by searching around windowsills, the basement or garage, and other likely places.



- If you're not squeamish about killing bugs, check out the links below to learn how to make your own "kill jar."
- When you have enough bugs to start your collection, gather your materials and get started.
- The foam core board will be your display board. Decide on a rough layout for your display before pinning anything down. Write down a title at the top of the board if you like.
- Put a small piece of double-sided tape on the board. Place a bug on top. Use simple straight pins (the kind used for sewing) to pin the bug to the board. Now repeat, leaving plenty of room between each bug for labeling.
- Now label your insect specimens in a professional manner. For each insect, use two small Post-it Notes:
 - one note with date and location (general "park" or "driveway" plus city and state) of the catch; and
 - one with the insect's genus and order

That's it! As you collect more over the summer and turn semi-pro, you might wish to move things around a bit and create different categories.

How to Catch a Bug for an Insect Collection

http://www.ehow.com/how_2377760_catch-bug-insect-collection.html

Learn the official way to make an insect collection:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/ythfacts/4h/unit1/unit1.htm>

This website from the University of Kentucky will show you how to

- Make a killing jar to use when collecting insects for your insect display
- Learn the correct way to label insect specimens
- Collect, pin, and label different kinds of insects

Take a look at exotic insect collections online:

Smithsonian Department of Entomology

<http://entomology.si.edu/>

For more resources, visit www.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral.

