



WEEK 1:

CREEPY
CRAWLIES

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME CREEPY CRAWLY FUN?

An insect is a type of animal that has six legs, three body parts (head, thorax, abdomen), compound eyes, two antennae and an exoskeleton (a hard covering on the outside of its body). Most adult insects also have wings, though they might be hidden or very small. Can you think of any insects you have seen? Common insects include grasshoppers, flies, beetles, ants and butterflies. Insects are among the most numerous and diverse animals on Earth!

DAY 1:

INSECT ADAPTATION ADVENTURE

Insects come in all different shapes, sizes and colors! Though all insects have the same basic parts (six legs, three body parts, compound eyes, two antennae and an exoskeleton), what an insect looks like depends a lot on where and how they live. An insect may be bright and colorful to stand out, or the same color as its environment to help it hide from predators. Some insects have small legs to run fast while others have large back legs to jump. Even the mouths of insects will be different if they eat different things. These different body parts are called adaptations. Adaptations help insects survive in their environments. Every insect has cool adaptations, including the ones around your home. Let's go find some interesting insects!

Before you start, you should have:

- A place outside where you can find insects
- A journal or paper
- Pencil, pen or crayons

Get started:

1. Explore outside around your house, neighborhood or a natural area.
2. Look for different insects moving on the ground, flying through the air or on and around plants.
3. Be careful not to disturb the insects by trying to catch them or pick them up.
4. See if you can find insects that:
 - o Fly
 - o Crawl
 - o Blend in (camouflage) with their environment
 - o Are colorful
 - o Have large back legs to jump
 - o Have large jaws to chew their food
 - o Have long bodies
 - o Have round bodies
 - o Are on or around flowers
 - o Live or work together

Optional: find a “creepy crawly” that isn’t an insect. Think about animals that don’t have the basic parts of an insect (like spiders, centipedes or roly-polies). Once you found one, figure out why it isn’t an insect. Does it have too many legs, no antennae or a different number of body parts?

5. Draw or write about what you find.
 - What kinds of adaptations did you see?
 - How do you think the adaptations help the insects to survive?
 - What was your favorite insect adaptation? Why?

Keep Exploring!

- Observe one insect for a few minutes and write down what you see. Think about where you found the insect, what adaptations their bodies have (what they look like) and what they are doing as you observe them.
- Pick two of the insects you found and compare them. What do they have in common with each other, and how are they different?
- Find an insect that you’ve never seen before. Write about or draw it in your journal, then use the links below to try to figure out what it is!

What did you find?

Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags **#samnoblehome** and **#summerexplorers** to share!

For more activities visit [samnoblehome.ou.edu/samnoblehome](http://samnoblehome.ou.edu)

More information on insect adaptations:

<https://www.insectidentification.org/>



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/11/bugs-insects-ants-evolution-beetles/>



<https://agrilifecdn.tamu.edu/wharton4h/files/2018/10/Adaptations-of-Insects.pdf>



Join Sam Noble Museum educators as they head outside to complete the Insect Adaptation Adventure!

<https://youtu.be/BPFYLObYW34>

