



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 4:

POLLEN RACE

Did you know that some insects and plants need one another to live? Some insects, like bees and butterflies, get their food from flowers. Whenever they land on a flower to eat, the insect gets covered in a powder called pollen. Plants need this pollen to make seeds, but they can only use pollen from a different plant. As the insect flies from flower to flower to get food, they spread the pollen as they go. This helps plants make seeds to grow new plants, which will provide more food for the insects! Insects and other animals that spread pollen are called pollinators.

Before you start, you should have:

- Two paper plates
- A spoon (metal or plastic will work)
- ¼ cup sugar or flour
- Optional: crayons or markers
- Optional: a partner

To play:

1. Set the boundaries for the area you are playing in – you'll need room to move around in a space where it's alright to spill sugar. (Somewhere outside is best!)
2. Optional: decorate the paper plates to look like flowers.
3. Place sugar on one of the plates and leave the other plate empty. The plates will be the "flowers," and the sugar will be the "pollen."
4. Place the empty flower on one end of the playing area and the filled flower on the opposite end (make sure you can easily move between them).
5. You will try to move pollen from the filled flower to the empty flower, but you can only use the spoon to carry it!
6. Start by standing next to the empty flower.
7. Race to the filled flower and scoop the pollen up with the spoon, then head back to pour the pollen on the empty flower.
8. You want to be quick but also be careful - if you spill the pollen, you have to start over!
9. Race back and forth from flower to flower until all the pollen has been moved.

Keep exploring!

- Challenge a partner to race with you! Each player will have their own empty flower, and the player with the most pollen on their flower at the end wins.
- Place some obstacles to move around or over in between the two flowers.
- Use a timer to see how long it takes you to spread the pollen, then try again to beat that time.

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!

More information on insects as pollinators:

<https://ento.psu.edu/pollinators/resources-and-outreach/what-are-pollinators-and-why-do-we-need-them>



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/>

