

Insect Defenses Match Up

Activity: To be conducted by the classroom teacher before, during, and after a visit to the Insectarium.

Goal: Students will be able to identify how insects defend themselves.

PreKindergarten Developmental Profile Indicators

Scientific Development

PK-CS-L1 – Explore, observe, and describe a variety of living things

PK-CS-I6 – Use appropriate scientific vocabulary related to topics

Language and Literacy Development

PK-LL-S3 – Ask and answer relevant questions and share experiences individually and in groups

PK-LL-R1 – Actively engage in reading experiences

Louisiana Science Content Standards and Benchmarks

SI-E-A1 – Asking appropriate questions about organisms and events in the environment

SI-E-A5 – Using data, including numbers and graphs to explain observations and experiments

SI-E-A6 – Communicating observations and experiments in oral and written formats

LS-E-A4 – Recognizing that there is great diversity among organisms

LS-E-C2 – Describing how the features of some plants and animals enable them to live in specific habitats

Materials:

Defenses Match Up activity sheets (one per student)

Pencils

Clipboards

Crayons, colored pencils

Preparation:

Make copies of Defenses Match up sheets so that you have one per student.

Draw and cut out an insect from the wrapping paper, newspaper or magazine (insect #1). Draw and cut out an insect from construction paper (Insect #2).

Activity:

Lead the discussion to how animals defend themselves (camouflage, armor, speed, staying in groups, flashy warning colors). Talk about the different strategies animals use to protect themselves. Books with pictures of insects or animals that demonstrate these adaptations would be a great tool in leading this discussion.

At the Insectarium...

Give each student a copy of the Defenses Match Up sheet on a clipboard with some crayons or colored pencils. As the students tour the Insectarium, they should look for and identify animals at the Insectarium that fit into one of the defense categories on their sheet. They may find more than one insect for each defense. When they find an insect that matches, have students draw a picture of the insect in the appropriate section on the handout.

Back in the Classroom...

Ask students to present their Insect Match Up Sheets to the class, and discuss them as a group, include in the discussion how these defenses help the animal. Base this discussion on the observations the students made during their visit. Display their work.