

Insectarium Group Visit Activity - CSI:Insectarium!
Teacher Instructions

Welcome to the Audubon Insectarium! We're so glad you have chosen our newest facility as a field trip for your students. At Audubon we are committed to providing an outstanding, entertaining learning experience to all of our visitors, and to that end, we have provided your group with an activity that will enhance their knowledge of insects and make their visit more engaging. Below are the instructions for this activity. Again, thank you for choosing to visit us today, and we hope you enjoy your visit to the Insectarium!

1. In order to complete the activity, your group will need to be divided into 4 teams. Each team will be given a different activity/mystery to solve. The questions for each version of the activity are the same, they are just in a different order depending on where the team begins their visit in the facility.
2. The 4 versions are distinguished by having a different insect image in the upper right hand corner of the first page (dragonfly, spider, beetle, butterfly). Please distribute the activities evenly between the teams so that each team has the same number of students per group.
3. Each team should read their mystery description and follow the instructions on where they are to begin their investigation. Each investigation will have a different solve for their mystery.
4. An answer key for teachers and chaperones is also included in this packet so group leaders can help guide the investigation and check answers.
5. Upon completion of your visit, review mysteries and answers with the entire group back at school - the students will probably enjoy hearing about the other mysteries. As an extension, each group could ask the other groups to try to solve their mystery first before they give the correct answer, based on their evidence gathered at the Insectarium.



Student Name: Key

CSI: Insectarium

Congratulations! You and your investigative team have been hired to solve a mystery involving one of the species found inside the Insectarium. As you tour the exhibits use this evidence collection survey to gather important information and clues that will help you and your team solve the...

Mystery of the Alien Pods!

Something keeps leaving strange pods on the plants in Mrs. Gainey's garden. At the same time, small green beings are eating up her garden. Are these visitors from another planet sent to take over the world, or is something closer to home to blame?

Begin your team's investigation in the Prehistoric Wonders area of the Insectarium

Prehistoric Wonders

In what era did insects first appear on earth? Paleozoic

What species is considered the "missing link" between arthropods (insects) and annelids (worms)? Velvet Worm

Field Camp

Name 3 tools for collecting bugs? Weatherproof notebook, head lamp, magnifying glass, field bag, field notes, field collecting bag, aspirator, forceps, glassine envelopes, point punch, vials, loupe, collapsible cage

Identify 2 species that have been collected on the sheet? Green Darner, Oleander Hawk Moth, Golden Jewel bug, Madagascar Moon Moth, Peanut Head Bug, Harlequin Beetle, Katydid, Cicada

Diversity

Insects outweigh humans by how much? 50 to 1

Life Underground

Name 2 insects that live underground and explain how they help the soil. Worms, mites, ants, beetles, spiders - worms, mites, ants, and beetles all help to clean up debris and cultivate the soil. Spiders and other predators help keep pest populations down. With out these bugs, soils would not stay healthy, plants would die, and humans would live in piles of debris and trash.

Insects of New Orleans

What are the two types of mosquitoes found in the New Orleans area? Aedes aegypti and biteless "tox" mosquitoes (Toxochiynchites amboinensis)

What disease is the "bad" mosquito famous for spreading in New Orleans? Yellow fever

Who is "Nature's clean-up crew"? Flies

Bug Appetit

Ask the Staff Entomologist what are the benefits of eating bugs? Bugs are a low fat and high in protein. They are a cheap and plentiful food source.

Try eating a bug (bonus points!)

Termite Gallery

How many termites are on exhibit in the gallery? Over 25,000

Why do termites eat wood? Wood is a plentiful food source. It is also defenseless against termites, and since not many other animals eat wood, there is no competition for food.

Name two methods that are used to fight termites. Pressure treated wood used in building houses, treat soils with chemicals, and bait systems

Boudreaux's Bait Shop/ Louisiana Swamp

Name 3 insects that are found in the Louisiana Swamp. Patent Leather Beetle, Ox Beetle, Brown Recluse Spider, North American Millipede, Velvet Ants, Lubber Grasshoppers, Bumblebees, Honey Bees, Cuban Cockroach, Black Widow Spider, Golden Silk Spider, Dragonfly, Whirligig, Predaceous Diving Beetle, Giant Water Bug,

Hall of Fame

Which species is considered the rarest butterfly species in the world? Queen Alexander's Birdwing

Why is it so endangered? High demand from collectors and habitat destruction have diminished their numbers in the wild

Ask a staff person how much it is worth? (hint: go the Metamorphosis Lab for help). \$7500 a piece, \$15,000 for the pair.

Metamorphosis

Name the two types of metamorphosis and explain how they are different. Complete - has 4 stages: Egg, Larva, Pupa, Adult; Incomplete - has 3 stages: Egg, Nymph, Adult

What are the life cycle stages of a butterfly? Egg, Caterpillar, Pupa, Butterfly

Butterflies in Flight

Why is it so important that the butterflies stay in the exhibit? Most of the butterflies in the exhibit are not from LA or the US, and it could be bad for local habitats and local butterflies if the butterflies are released into the area.

Why can't we touch any of the butterflies? Butterflies are very fragile, and can be easily damaged by even the softest touch.

(Hint: ask the staff at the entrance about these questions)

The culprit in the Mystery of the Alien Pods is Butterflies

The museum piece in the Mystery of the Museum Theft is Queen Alexandra's Birdwing

The culprit in the Mystery of the Hollow House is Termites

The insect used in the Mystery of the Deadly Disease is The Aedes aegypti mosquito



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Mystery of the Museum Theft!

Your investigative team has received word that some thieves are planning to steal the rarest and most valuable item from the Insectarium. It is your team's job to discover what this item is and prevent the bandits from stealing it. Good luck!

Begin your team's investigation in the Metamorphosis Lab area of the Insectarium

Metamorphosis

Name the two types of metamorphosis and explain how they are different. _____

What are the life cycle stages of a butterfly? _____

Butterflies in Flight

Why is it so important that the butterflies stay in the exhibit? _____

Why can't we touch any of the butterflies? _____

(Hint: ask the staff at the entrance about these questions)

Prehistoric Wonders

In what era did insects first appear on earth? _____

What species is considered the "missing link" between arthropods (insects) and annelids (worms)? _____

Field Camp

Name 3 tools for collecting bugs? _____

Identify 2 species that have been collected on the sheet? _____

Diversity

Insects outweigh humans by how much? _____

Life Underground

Name 2 insects that live underground and explain how they help the soil. _____

Insects of New Orleans

What are the two types of mosquitoes found in the New Orleans area? _____

What disease is the "bad" mosquito famous for spreading in New Orleans? _____

Who is "Nature's clean-up crew"? _____

Bug Appetit

Ask the Staff Entomologist what are the benefits of eating bugs? _____

Try eating a bug (bonus points!)

Termite Gallery

How many termites are on exhibit in the gallery? _____

Why do termites eat wood? _____

Name two methods that are used to fight termites. _____

Boudreaux's Bait Shop/ Louisiana Swamp

Name 3 insects that are found in the Louisiana Swamp. _____

Hall of Fame

Which species is considered the rarest butterfly species in the world? _____

Why is it so endangered? _____

Ask a staff person how much it is worth? (hint: go the Metamorphosis Lab for help). _____

The evidence collecting section of your investigation is now complete. Go back and review your data, and determine which what rare item the thieves are after. Write your answer to the mystery below.

The Museum piece in the Mystery of the Museum Theft is _____



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Mystery of the Deadly Disease!

Your investigative team has received word that some villains are planning to unleash a deadly disease in the City of New Orleans. Their goal is to cause chaos and panic in the city. The disease they are trying to release is yellow fever, and they are using an insect to spread the disease. It is your team's job to discover which insect is being used and prevent the scoundrels from succeeding in their plan. Good luck!

Begin your team's investigation in the Bug Appetit area of the Insectarium

Bug Appetit

Ask the Staff Entomologist what are the benefits of eating bugs? _____

Try eating a bug (bonus points!)

Termite Gallery

How many termites are on exhibit in the gallery? _____

Why do termites eat wood? _____

Name two methods that are used to fight termites. _____

Boudreaux's Bait Shop/ Louisiana Swamp

Name 3 insects that are found in the Louisiana Swamp. _____

Hall of Fame

Which species is considered the rarest butterfly species in the world? _____

Why is it so endangered? _____

Ask a staff person how much it is worth? (hint: go the Metamorphosis Lab for help). _____

Metamorphosis

Name the two types of metamorphosis and explain how they are different. _____

What are the life cycle stages of a butterfly? _____

Butterflies in Flight

Why is it so important that the butterflies stay in the exhibit? _____

Why can't we touch any of the butterflies? _____

(Hint: ask the staff at the entrance about these questions)

Prehistoric Wonders

In what era did insects first appear on earth? _____

What species is considered the "missing link" between arthropods (insects) and annelids (worms)? _____

Field Camp

Name 3 tools for collecting bugs? _____

Identify 2 species that have been collected on the sheet? _____

Diversity

Insects outweigh humans by how much? _____

Life Underground

Name 2 insects that live underground and explain how they help the soil. _____

Insects of New Orleans

What are the two types of mosquitoes found in the New Orleans area? _____

What disease is the "bad" mosquito famous for spreading in New Orleans? _____

Who is "Nature's clean-up crew"? _____

The evidence collecting section of your investigation is now complete. Go back and review your data, and determine which insect the bandits will use to spread yellow fever. Write your answer to the mystery below.

The insect in the Mystery of the Dangerous Disease is _____



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Mystery of the Hollow House!

A local home owner keeps finding collections of mysterious mud tunnels around the outside of his home. Also, he keeps hearing what sounds like quiet chewing in the walls of the house. Is the house haunted by a hungry ghost, is a monster tunneling its way in, or is something else to blame?

Begin your team's investigation in the Boudreaux's Bait Shop area of the Insectarium

Boudreaux's Bait Shop/ Louisiana Swamp

Name 3 insects that are found in the Louisiana Swamp. _____

Hall of Fame

Which species is considered the rarest butterfly species in the world? _____

Why is it so endangered? _____

Ask a staff person how much it is worth? (hint: go the Metamorphosis Lab for help). _____

Metamorphosis

Name the two types of metamorphosis and explain how they are different. _____

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Butterflies in Flight

Why is it so important that the butterflies stay in the exhibit? _____

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Life Underground

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Insects of New Orleans

What are the two types of mosquitoes found in the New Orleans area? _____

What disease is the "bad" mosquito famous for spreading in New Orleans? _____

Who is "Nature's clean-up crew"? _____

Bug Appetit

Ask the Staff Entomologist what are the benefits of eating bugs? _____

Try eating a bug (bonus points!)

Termite Gallery

How many termites are on exhibit in the gallery? _____

Why do termites eat wood? _____

Name two methods that are used to fight termites. _____

The evidence collecting section of your investigation is now complete. Go back and review your data, and determine which suspect is responsible for the Hollow House Mystery. Write your answer to the mystery below.

The culprit in the Mystery of the Hollow House is _____



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What are the life cycle stages of a butterfly? _____

Butterflies in Flight

Why is it so important that the butterflies stay in the exhibit? _____

Why can't we touch any of the butterflies? _____

(Hint: ask the staff at the entrance about these questions)

The evidence collecting section of your investigation is now complete. Go back and review your data, and determine which suspect is responsible for the Alien Pod Mystery. Write your answer to the mystery below.

The culprit in the Mystery of the Alien Pods is _____