



# Interesting Insects

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<b>Supplies:</b>	<p>Insect Diagram (included at the end of this lesson)</p> <p>Blank paper</p> <p>Writing and drawing utensils</p> <p>Dice</p>
<b>Age or Grade:</b>	<p>Ages 5 and up</p>
<b>Time:</b>	<p>15-30 minutes</p>
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Insects are called invertebrates. Invertebrates are all animals that do not have a backbone, including worms, slugs and insects. Instead of bones to help hold their bodies up, insects have exoskeletons.</p> <p>An exoskeleton is like a hard shell that protects an insect's body and it's divided into three parts so that it can move.</p> <p>Insects have different body parts than humans. All insects have 6 legs and 3 major body parts: the head, thorax, and abdomen. The head includes the eyes, antennae, and mouth. The thorax, which separates the head from the abdomen, is where the insect's wings and legs are attached. The abdomen is the largest part. Inside are the insect's heart, stomach and tubes used for breathing.</p>
<b>Project Goal:</b>	<p>Youth will play a fun game that will teach the insect body parts. They will have the opportunity to be creative by drawing their own insect.</p>
<b>What to Do:</b>	<p>The object of the game is to be the first one to draw a complete insect. Players take turns rolling the die to draw their insect. The tricky part is that you can't add to the insect until you have the three main body parts (head, thorax, abdomen) in place. Once you have those, you can add antennae, legs, and wings, one at a time, until you complete your insect (so you'll need to roll a #6 six times for six legs-and so on).</p> <p>Each number on the die represents a different part of the insect's body:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) For the head</li><li>2) For the thorax</li><li>3) For the abdomen</li><li>4) For each antenna</li><li>5) For each wing</li><li>6) For each leg</li></ol>
<b>Reflect:</b>	<p>How is the human body different from an insect body?</p> <p>Why do you think different insects have different features, are colored differently, some have wings, some do not?</p>



## Virginia 4-H STEM @ Home Activity

### Apply:

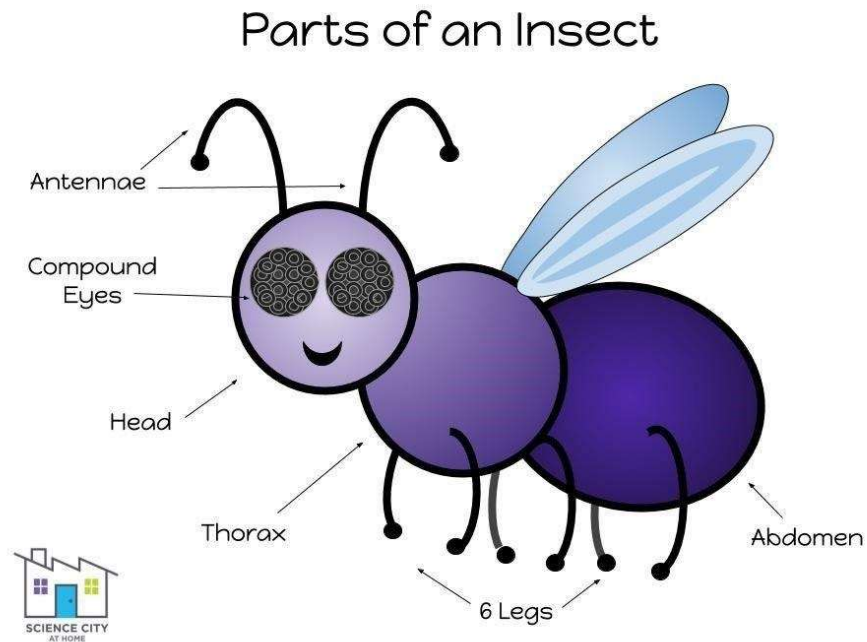
Take a walk in your yard and see the different insects you can find. Try to draw what you see. Bring your drawings inside and see if you can use internet resources to identify your insect. Kentucky 4-H has a dichotomous key handout to assist with determining the order of an insect:

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/deptimages/stfairorder.pdf>

### Notes for Parents or Helpers:

This game can be played in a pair or small group. If necessary, you can make additional copies of the directions for each child.

Don't have dice? Go to [www.random.org/dice](http://www.random.org/dice) for an online dice roller!



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