

Insect Scavenger Hunt Activity

Materials:

- 18 insect fact cards (pages 2–6)
- insect questions worksheet (pages 7–8)
- scissors
- scotch tape

Preparation

Print the fact cards and cut them apart.

Make copies of the insect questions worksheet (2-sided). Each student will need his or her own copy.

Hide all 18 insect fact cards around your classroom where students will be able to find them. You can put them on the back of your classroom door, on chairs, on the computer



Preview

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You may want to make this a silent activity so students don't share answers with each other. You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don't be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it's more fun when they have to search around a little.

Examples of good hiding spots might include:

- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- lying flat on the classroom bookshelf
- on the side of the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher's chair

Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they're done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.



Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

1



Scientists have discovered almost one million insect species. They

Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

2

Bugs and insects aren't the same. All insects have



three body sections, six legs, and two antennae. Animals like spiders and centipedes are



Preview

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Insect

3



Stick insects are the longest insects in the world. The longest ever was from China. It reached 25 inches (64 cm) in length with its legs stretched out.

Insect

4

Care to compete against the strongest insect? The horned dung beetle can lift 1,141 times its own weight. That's like a 200-pound (90-kg) adult lifting nine school buses.





Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

5



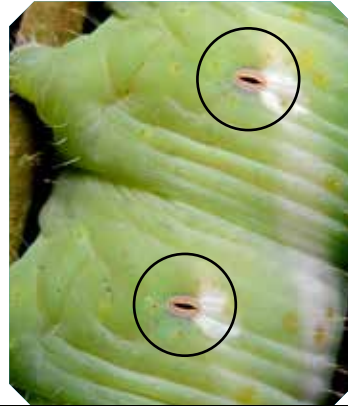
The largest insect lived about 290 million years ago. Species of *Meganeurosis* looked a lot like

Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

6



Insects don't have lungs. They take in oxygen through little holes all over their body called



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Insect

7



The heaviest insect on record is an Actaeon beetle. But it wasn't an adult! The larvae actually weigh much

more. The biggest larva was about 8 ounces (228 grams).

Insect

8

Harvester ants are the most venomous insects in the world. Their venom is as strong as some of the deadliest snakes. Luckily, they release only tiny bits of it at a time.



One bite to a human will just hurt a lot for a few hours.



Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

9



Size is the only thing small about termites. Some species make mounds taller than 29 feet (9 meters).

Colonies can have more than one million members. Some queens live 20–50 years. Some queens also lay more than 30,000 eggs per day.

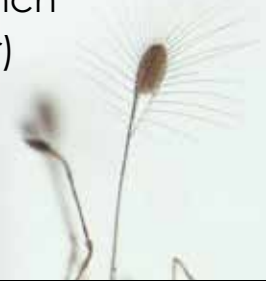
Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

10

The smallest insects are called fairyflies. Some fairyflies are less than $\frac{1}{50}$ th of an inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ of a millimeter) in length. That's about the size of a grain of salt.



Preview

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Insect

11



Insects can be born killers! Some parasitic wasps lay eggs on living hosts like caterpillars. When the eggs hatch, the wasp larvae move inside their hosts. Then they eat the hosts from the inside out.

Insect

12

Butterflies and moths are similar-looking insects. One way to tell them apart is their antennae. Butterflies have skinny antennae with balls or clubs at the end. Moth antennae don't have anything at the end. They're also often fuzzy!





Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

13



Cicadas are gentle giants, but not when it comes to your ears. Some species spend up to 17 years growing up underground. The adults that come

underground. The adults that come

Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

14



The deadliest animal in the world is very small. Mosquitoes kill about 700,000–1,000,000 people each year. They do it by passing along a deadly



Preview

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Insect

15

Praying mantises are known to take on prey as big as birds. They can see movement more than 60 feet (18 meters) away. They'll sit perfectly still until their food gets close. Then... BAM! They strike faster than $\frac{1}{20}$ th of a second.



Insect

16

Sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite! These bloodsuckers can go months without eating. In the right conditions, they can go more than a year! Extreme heat is one of the only ways to get rid of them for good.





Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

17



Bees and ants are two types of insects known for living in groups. Their families, called colonies, can get huge. Beehives regularly reach up to 60,000–80,000

Scavenger Hunt

Insect

Fact Card

18

You can't even escape insects in Antarctica! The Antarctic midge needs freezing temperatures to survive. It's less than 1/16th of an inch



Preview

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Name: _____

Insect Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: About how many insect species do scientists think exist in total?

Fact Card 2: What must all insects have?

Fact Card 3: How long could the longest living insect stay on top of a tree?



Fact Card 6: What are the names of the holes and tubes that insects use to breathe?

Fact Card 7: True or false: Adult Actaeon beetles can reach 8 ounces (228 grams).

Fact Card 8: What is the most venomous insect in the world?

Fact Card 9: How old are the oldest termite queens?

Insect Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: What is about the same size as the smallest fairyflies?

Fact Card 11: How do parasitic wasp larvae eat their hosts?

Fact Card 12: What can you look at to quickly tell a moth from a butterfly?



Fact Card 15: How fast is a praying mantis strike?

Fact Card 16: In the right conditions, how long can a bed bug live without eating?

Fact Card 17: How many ants make up the largest known colony?

Fact Card 18: What is the largest Antarctic animal that only lives on land?

Insect Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: About how many insect species do scientists think exist in total?

6-10 million

Fact Card 2: What must all insects have?



the harvester ant

Fact Card 9: How old are the oldest termite queens?

50 years old

Insect Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: What is about the same size as the smallest fairyflies?

a grain of salt

Fact Card 11: How do parasitic wasp larvae eat their hosts?

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Fact Card 18: What is the largest Antarctic animal that only lives on land?

the Antarctic midge