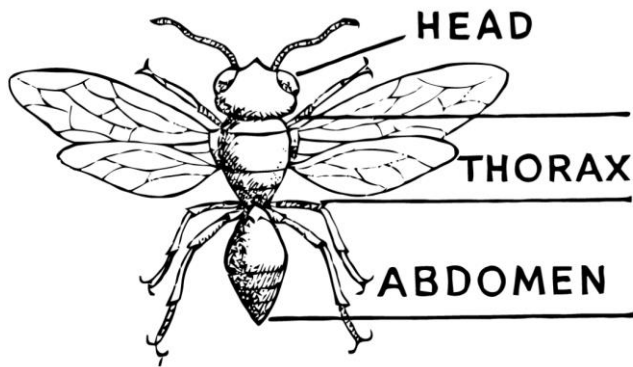


7th – 8th Grade Insect Collection Project

Insect – a small arthropod with three body segments and three pairs of legs, and generally one or two pairs of wings.



Working on the project over the Summer is **OPTIONAL**

Final project is due next March.

Overview:

The final product of this collection project will be a binder with drawings and diagrams AND one option below:

1. Shadowbox display of 12 actual insects that you caught, OR
2. Photos of 12 insects that you found.

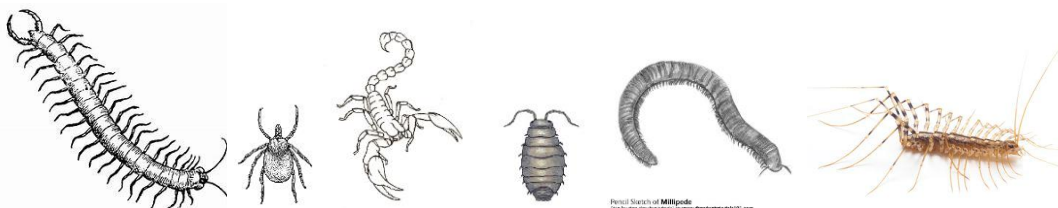
What can I do over the summer?

Summer work is optional. . This project is due by the end of next winter, but you can get an early start by exploring your backyard, or even your garage or basement for insects! It will be very difficult to find them when the cold temperatures arrive in late September.

- Find 12 or more insects.
- Keep track of the location insect was collected/found. **Tip:** If taking pictures of insects, using a smart phone, add city/state location data to the image – or jot it on a post it note and take a pic of the note so you can find it later along with the insect photo. Remember to save pics in an album so you can find them easily.
- Tips for taking good close-ups with your smartphone <https://iphonephotographyschool.com/focus-tips/>
- Begin informally identifying insects using a field guide from the library or search online.
- Copy the drawing template onto cardstock and sketch or paint your insects (no crayons).
 - **This will be a rough draft – put identifying data on a sticky note, or lightly write in pencil.**

What NOT to collect:

- **Do not collect Walking Sticks or Praying Mantises as they are protected.**
- Spiders, ticks, scorpions, millipedes, centipedes and pill bugs are NOT insects.



Subduing your insects:

Freezer Method:

The easiest way to subdue your insects is to put them in a zip lock bag or Tupperware container and place them in the freezer for a couple of hours. You can keep them in the freezer for several months in a row prior to putting the insects in your collection. When you defrost the insects be sure that they dry out well so that they do not mold.

- **Butterflies and Moths:** If you put a butterfly or moth in the freezer - take them out after they are dead and open the wings so that they lie flat. If you wait too long it will be difficult to get the wings to unfold.
- **Cockroaches:** They can be frozen for several weeks and **still be alive**. Make sure you leave them in the freezer for a couple of months.

Chemical Method:

Insects can also be killed by putting them in a jar with a cloth or cotton ball soaked in nail polish remover. **HAVE A PARENT HELP YOU WITH THE NAIL POLISH REMOVER BECAUSE IT IS POISONOUS.**