



Resources on Bugs for Kids and Teachers

This bibliography was created for the Museum's teaching kit on Insects

Books for Children

Ants and Other Social Insects by Cecilia Venn. Chicago: World Book, 2000.
In Q&A format, describes the world of social insects, with an emphasis on ants.

Bugs by Penelope York. New York: DK, 2002.
Describes a variety of insects and their behavior, discussing metamorphosis, camouflage, defenses, and their benefits to people.

Bugs Are Insects by Anne F Rockwell. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.
Introduces common backyard insects and explains the basic characteristics of these creatures.

Bugs Before Time: Prehistoric Insects and Their Relatives by Cathy Camper. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002.
Describes the physical characteristics and environment of various insects that were around in prehistoric times, including those (cockroaches, centipedes, dragonflies) who have survived into the present day.

Bug Faces by Darlyne Murawski; Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2000.
Close-up photographs of insect faces with descriptions of their facial features and why they are necessary.

Bug Hunter by David Burnie. New York: DK, 2005.
Describes what entomologists do, and offers projects and activities for collecting and observing bugs.

Bugs for Lunch by Margery Facklam. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 1999.
In rhyme; introduces animals that eat bugs, such as geckos, trout, and even people.

The Bug Scientists by Donna M Jackson. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.
Entomologists explain what they do and how they use the information they've learned about insects in their work.

How Do Flies Walk Upside Down?: Questions and Answers About Insects by Melvin Berger. New York: Scholastic, 1999.
In Q&A format, describes the physical characteristics, senses, eating habits, life cycles, and behavior of different insects.

Insects, Bugs, and Art Activities. New York: Crabtree, 2002.

Information about various topics related to honeybees, caterpillars, dragonflies, snails and other insects and invertebrates forms the foundation for a variety of craft projects.

Look Closer: an Introduction to Bug Watching by Gay W. Holland. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2003.

Describes how a variety of insects can be observed in gardens, open fields, woods, water, and other places.

Maggot, Grubs, and More: The Secret Lives of Young Insects by Melissa Stewart. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2003.

Describes the life cycles of a variety of insects.

Stick insects by Geoff Miller. Danbury, CT: Grolier Educational, 1999.

All about stick insects.

A Walk Around The Pond: Insects In and Over The Water by Gilbert Waldbauer.

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006.

Describes those insects that live in water, or spend part of their life cycle in water.

Young Naturalist's Handbook: Insect-lo-pedia by Matthew Reinhart. New York:

Hyperion Books For Children, 2003.

A very comprehensive picture book about the lives, bodies, habitats, and defenses of insects.

For Reference (adult reading level):

The Practical Entomologist by Rick Imes. New York: Fireside, 1992.

Describes what characterizes an insect, including its anatomy and life cycle.

Arranged by orders, it explains how each group differs from another and why certain types of insects have been classified together. This book shows you not only what to look for but how and where to look for it: from capturing and keeping live insects to ways of making a collection and taking photographs. Tips on keeping a field notebook are also included. Many full-color illustrations

Peterson First Guide to Insects of North America by Christopher Leahy. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

An introduction to the insects you are most likely to see in North America. Less comprehensive than the Peterson Field Guides, but more than adequate for a classroom study of insects.

DVDs:

Life in the Undergrowth, David Attenborough. BBC/Warner, released 2005.

Five episode documentary series on bugs of all shapes and sizes featuring absolutely incredible photography, some of it of things never before seen by humans. (Parents and teachers may want to preview because there is quite a lot of information on reproduction and mating behaviors.) Much of it is beautiful, some of it could be frightening, and all of it is fascinating.

Episode 1: Invasion Of The Land: land-living invertebrates.

Episode 2: Taking To The Air: flying invertebrates, including the world's largest (and perhaps most ferocious) insect - the Titan beetle.

Episode 3: The Silk Spinners: Although several invertebrates make and use silk in various ways, this episode focuses on spiders.

Episode 4: Intimate Relations: how insects use each other, as well as plants and other animals, to further their own ends. Includes footage of the world's smallest insect – a fairy wasp only quarter of a millimeter long.

Episode 5: Supersocieties: the intricate social structures of many insect colonies.

The Magic School Bus: Bugs, Bugs, Bugs. Warner Home Video, DVD released 2004. Three episodes of The Magic School Bus (“Gets Ants in its Pants,” “In a Beehive,” and “The Bog Beast”) all involving insects.

Microcosmos. Miramax, 1996, DVD released 2005.

Documentary of insect life using incredible close-ups, slow motion, and time-lapse photography. There is minimal narration but the action is non-stop: bees collecting nectar, snails mating, a scarab beetle relentlessly pushing its ball of dung uphill, an underwater spider creating an air bubble to live in, a caterpillar traffic jam, and more.

Web Sites

Life in the Undergrowth

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/tvradio/programmes/lifeintheundergrowth/>

The companion web site to the David Attenborough BBC series on insects.

Montréal Insectarium

<http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/insectarium/en/index.php>

The site of the museum/zoo in Montreal devoted to insects everywhere. Information on the exhibits as well as many resources.