

Bug Motel

Reference:

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/images/wildaboutyourgarden_bp_bug_hotel.pdf

Overview: Children build a fun habitat for invertebrates and observe them in the garden.

Subject area: Backyard Science

Grade level: 2nd-5th

Oregon Benchmarks/Common Core Standards:

- *2-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity*
LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans
- *3-LS1 From Molecules to Organism: Structures and Processes*
LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organism
- *4-LS1 From Molecules to Organism: Structures and Processes*
4-LS1-1: Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction
4-LS1-2: Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.
- *5-LS2 Ecosystems: Interaction, Energy, and Dynamics*
5-LS2-1: develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment
LS2.A: Interdependent Relationship in Ecosystems
LS2-B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems

Objectives: Children will be able to list basic habitat needs of living creatures.

Prep time: 15-30 minutes

Lesson time: 30 minutes

Materials needed:

- 3-5 pallets
- Large shallow tray or bowl for water
- A variety of natural building materials, such as:
 - Sticks
 - Straw
 - Stones
 - String or twine
 - Terracotta flower pots

- Bamboo stalks
- Pinecones
- Bark
- Moss

Space needed: Garden area, preferably a shady spot

Staff needed: 1 adult per 4 children

Preparation steps:

1. Stack pallets in a shady area
2. Cut any long building materials (like sticks or bamboo) to about 1 foot in length

Presentation steps:

1. Talk about the habitat you are going to make and what bugs need in their habitat. They need:
 - a. Shelter: places to hide, feel protected, keep them dry and shaded
 - b. Food: the bug motel provides a variety of food sources (including other bugs, wood, plant debris, etc.)
 - c. Water
2. Fill the spaces in the pallets with your building materials (see above link for an example of a bug motel). Be sure to leave space to add your tray filled with water.
3. Check the bug motel throughout the week to see who's moved in and to replenish water (note: when children capture bugs in the garden, the bug motel is an ideal place to release them).