

Bug Traps

Reference: www.ehow.com/how_5050054_make-insect_bug-traps.html

Overview: Children will use their knowledge of insect habitat preferences to place “pit-fall” traps in the garden. “Pit-fall” traps are special insect traps designed for insects to crawl over and fall into. Children can check these traps for a few days and observe and identify the insects that they catch.

Subject area: Backyard Science

Grade level: K-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 trap, observe, and identify insects in the garden.

Prep time: 5 minutes

Lesson time: 20 minutes

Materials needed:

- 1 trowel per person or group
- 1 Mason jar per group
- Rocks, twigs, leaves and flowers

Space needed: Garden

Staff needed: 1 staff for every 5 children

Preparation steps: Gather materials ahead of time and have them set up on a stable surface

Pre-test of knowledge:

- Ask children what spaces in the garden they think crawling insects prefer
 - “Do you think insects prefer to be hidden under the plants or to crawl in wide open spaces?”
- Note to staff: crawling insects prefer to be hidden under plants (show examples in the garden)

Presentation steps:

1. Split children into small groups of 5 and have a staff member with each group.
2. Locate a spot that the children think insects like.
3. Dig a hole without disturbing garden plants, about the size of the Mason jar.
4. Place the Mason jar in the hole with the top of the Mason jar level with the ground (this is a very important step).
5. Disguise the jar by placing leaves, twigs, and flowers around the jar. A few twigs can be placed over the opening.
6. Check the traps later in the day and throughout the week to see what kinds of insects get trapped.
7. Use the OSU Extension Services’ Garden Insect Identification Guide to identify the insects:
ipmnet.org/Pocket_Guide_of_Natural_Enemies.pdf