

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIRST GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Introduction to Insects

**Theme:** Life Science

**Unit Number:** 6      **Unit Title:** Animal Planet

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):**

S1CS1

S1CS4

S1L1

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Insects, insect parts

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract(limit 100 characters):** The purpose of this activity is to teach students the characteristics of an insect.

**Details:** Start the lesson by explaining that insects have: 3 body parts (head, thorax, and abdomen), compound eyes, 2 antennae, and 6 legs. Next, distribute the materials so each student can build their own insect. I gave each student 3 pieces of modeling clay to represent the body parts, faceted beads to represent compound eyes, pipe cleaners for antennae, and toothpicks for legs. Allow the students to get creative but make sure their creation displays all the characteristics of an insect.

For the second part of the lesson, allow the students to observe insects and choose which one they want to draw. Also, be sure they draw the insect big enough that they will be able to label the parts. Next, have the students label the parts they drew. I gave each of them a piece of paper with the words head, thorax, abdomen, antennae, eyes, and legs. They cut out the words and glued them next to the appropriate body part.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

1. Book about insects
2. Several colors of modeling clay
3. Toothpicks
4. Pipe cleaners

5. Beads
6. Live insects or pictures of insects for observation
7. Paper
8. Pencils

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

**Be sure the students do not poke themselves or someone else with the toothpicks. Also, if working with live insects, be sure the students are careful when handling the jars.**

**Sources/References:**

- 1) Insect Zoo at UGA Entomology Department for live insects and displays
- 2)
- 3)