

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
KINDERGARTEN**

**Title of Lesson:** Insect Zoo

**Theme:** Life Science

**Unit Number:** 4      **Unit Title:** Living and Non-Living Things

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

SKL1

**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):**

Living vs. Non-Living Things

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** This activity teaches students about different insects/bugs and about their habitat.

**Details:** For this activity I worked with the University of Georgia Entomology Department to check out some of the insects/bugs that they have in their Insect Zoo and brought them to my class for a presentation. First I called ahead and told them what I was planning on doing. About an hour before my presentation I went to the Entomology Department and talked with the lady in charge and told her about the age of my class and how we had been learning about the forest habitat lately so she helped me pick out insects/bugs that were relevant to this habitat. I ended up checking out a "Wow Box" which is a large display that contains the dead bodies of many kinds of different insects from around the world that are either very large or brightly colored. I also checked out 2 live Bess beetles, 4 Madagascar hissing cockroaches, and 1 whip scorpion. All three of these species live in the forest and are easily handled so we both felt like they were the best for my class. When I went into the class I hid all of the insects from them so that it would be a surprise. I started out with the "Wow Box" and told them the names of all of the insects in there and showed them on a map where all of them were from. After looking at all of these insects I went and got all of the live insects one species at a time and brought them to the front of the class. I then told them some facts that I had learned about each of them which included where they lived, what they ate, and other basic information. I then got one of the insects out and carried it in my hand while I walked around the classroom and let every student get an up close look at it. The Entomology Department actually

suggested that I let the children hold the insects if they wanted to but since my children were young I did not fully trust that they wouldn't get scared and drop them so my teacher and I agreed to just let them look at it. After we did this with all three different types of insects, I got all of the students to go back to their seats and draw and color their favorite insect that they had seen. I got them to color it as accurately as possible and to put it in their correct habitat with the type of food that they eat. This was helpful in reinforcing what I had taught them. After this we still had 10 minutes left so I read to the class a book about butterflies that my teacher already had.

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

**Insects from the UGA Entomology Department Insect Zoo**

**Paper (enough for your whole class)**

**Crayons/Markers**

**Possibly a book**

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

**Plan something that can do after they color their animals beforehand because I did not and so was stuck reading a book that was only somewhat relevant. If you want you can get more insect species than I did, which would take a longer amount of time. You also can allow your class to hold some of the insects if you think that they would be able to handle it without hurting one of the insects. If you allow the students to hold the insects you may want to watch out for any biting or pinching from the insects. I personally did not get bit or pinched but it is still a possibility that it can occur.**

**Sources/References:**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)