

INVENT AN INSECT FOR AN ENVIRONMENT

This activity assumes previous knowledge about insects. This is a good review or wrap-up activity after studying different types of insects. The bug that they will draw is intended to be an imaginary one that they invent. This allows them to combine actual science with their creativity.

Goal of activity: To make students think about all the adaptations an insect needs in order to survive in its environment. Insects must be able not only to live but also to reproduce. I did a short discussion period before starting the drawings. We talked about various kinds of antennae, legs, mouth parts, behavior strategies, etc.

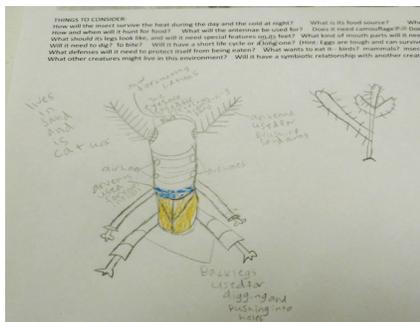
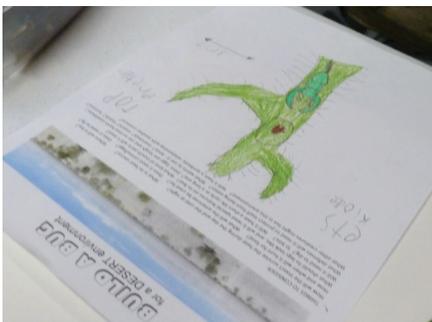
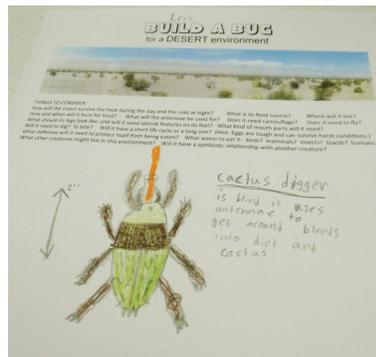
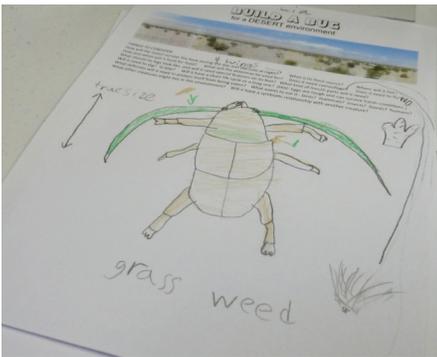
Target age group: ages 8 to 14

Time needed: 15 to 30 minutes

You will need: copies of the following pattern pages, pencils, possibly colored pencils

What to do: Let the students choose one of these pages. Provide pencils, or other art supplies, and about 15 to 30 minutes to think and draw.

Some student samples from my classroom: (ages 7 to 10, which is on the younger side for this activity) I did not force them to label parts. However, they all wanted to tell me every single detail about their bug!



BUILD A BUG

for a DESERT environment



THINGS TO CONSIDER:

How will the insect survive the heat during the day and the cold at night? What is its food source? Where will it live?
How and when will it hunt for food? What will the antennae be used for? Does it need camouflage? Does it need to fly?
What should its legs look like, and will it need special features on its feet? What kind of mouth parts will it need?
Will it need to dig? To bite? Will it have a short life cycle or a long one? (Hint: Eggs are tough and can survive harsh conditions.)
What defenses will it need to protect itself from being eaten? What wants to eat it-- birds? mammals? insects? lizards? humans?
What other creatures might live in this environment? Will it have a symbiotic relationship with another creature?

BUILD A BUG

for a VERY WET environment



THINGS TO CONSIDER:

This area experiences many floods every year. Often, the jungle floor becomes a lake for many weeks.

How will the insect survive the constant flooding? What is its food source? Where will it live? Will it need to swim?

How and when will it hunt for food? What will the antennae be used for? Does it need camouflage? Does it need to fly?

What should its legs look like, and will it need special features on its feet? What kind of mouth parts will it need?

Will it need to dig? To bite? Will it have a short life cycle or a long one? (Hint: Eggs are tough and can survive harsh conditions.)

What defenses will it need to protect itself from being eaten? What wants to eat it-- birds? mammals? insects? lizards? humans?

What other creatures might live in this environment? Will it have a symbiotic relationship with another creature?