

Meet the Insects

You will need a parent or trusted adult to help you with this activity !

A lot of birds eat fruits, seeds and even insects to survive. In this activity you will be introduced to some of the insects that are crawling, flying, and even munching on leaves in your own backyard!

Here's what you'll need:

- an old light colored bed sheet or towel
- a magnifying glass or mirror box (see page 3)
- garden gloves (optional)
- camera
- sheet of paper and pencil

Once you've got your sheet and magnifying glass/ mirror box, it's time to meet the insects!

Here's what you'll do:

1. Lay the sheet under a tree or plant and spread it out.
2. On your paper, write down the name of the tree.
3. Ask your parent or adult to shake the tree and the branches. They will have to give it a good vigorous shake!
4. Use the magnifying glass or mirror box* to take a closer look at whatever falls onto the sheet.

*You do not need to put the insect into the mirror box, just place the box next to it and let it crawl (or wiggle) in.

5. You can also take photos and upload them to an app like iNaturalist or the internet to help you identify the insects.

You don't need to touch or hold the insects.



6. Next, write down the names of the insects you have identified. It's okay if you are not able to identify all. Record the number of each insect seen on your paper.

7. Then, put the sheet under a different tree or plant and repeat steps 2-6.

8. When you're done, think about why one tree may have more or less insects than another.

For example:

Did native plants have more insects than non-native plants?

Were any of the plants treated for insects?

Were there any insects that didn't fall onto the sheet and why?



DIY- Mirror Box

You will need a parent or trusted adult to help you with this activity !

A magnifying glass is a good tool to use to look at insects. But a mirror box helps you to see insects from every angle. It's small, light and easy to take along with you on a walk to explore any interesting finds. The instructions below were taken from sunhatsandwellieboots.com.

Remember, you don't need to pick up the insect - let them crawl into the mirror box!

Here's what you'll need:

- an empty and clean small juice box (any small box would also work well)
- double-sided tape
- self adhesive mirror roll or sheets
- scissors
- silver gift paper

1. Open the box out flat and cut it in half. Keep the other half for later.
2. Cut a section of mirror roll and attach it to one side of the flattened box.
3. Once covered, cut around the previous folds at the bottom of the juice box to create the flaps (these will form the base of the box).
4. To recreate the box shape add double-sided tape to three of the flaps and to one side of the outer sides of the box.
5. Use the other half of the juice box to create the base by cutting a square the same size as the base of the box.
6. Cover it with self adhesive mirror and attach to the base of the box using the double-sided tape.
7. Cover the outside of the box with the silver gift paper.



Using a mirror box to observe a ladybird. www.sunhatsandwellieboots.com

