

ACTIVITY SUMMARIES—QUARTER 2

ACTIVITY 11—Build a Bug

Students are introduced to the structural characteristics that distinguish insects from other animals. They learn that insects have three body parts, six legs, simple and compound eyes, antennae, and sometimes wings. They build a model insect with these characteristics.

ACTIVITY 12—Insect Vision

Students build models of an insect’s simple eye and compound eye, then experiment with the models to gain a better understanding of how insects see the world.

ACTIVITY 13—Insects in Hiding

Students learn how insects avoid becoming food for predators by using camouflage and mimicry. They camouflage their own paper butterflies to try to make them disappear into classroom surroundings and then stage a butterfly hunt to see how many of their classmates’ camouflaged butterflies they can spot.

ACTIVITY 14—Observing Plants and Animals

Students first learn major differences between plants and animals. They observe pictures of plants and animals that live in different kinds of environments and relate physical characteristics to survival in those environments. They also observe and name the major parts of a plant and discuss the importance of plants to life on Earth.

ACTIVITIES 15 & 16—Roots Anchor and Absorb

Students begin their exploration of the specific parts of a plant by observing roots. They conclude that roots anchor the plant in the soil and absorb water and dissolved nutrients.

ACTIVITY 17—What Is a Stem For?

Students learn about the structure and function of a plant stem. They set up an experiment to show that a stem transports water up to the leaves of a plant.

ACTIVITY 18—Looking at Leaves

Students play a “Leaf Game” that requires them to closely observe various kinds of leaves and note their different characteristics.

ACTIVITIES 19 & 20—What Do Plants Need?*

Students set up and carry out an experiment to determine whether plants need light in order to be healthy. They grow young plants in light and in darkness, compare the appearance of the plants after two weeks, and record their results. Students follow accepted science methodology in planning, carrying out, and reporting on their experiment.

* indicates Scientific Method Experiment