

Sample Investigations

Ages 5–8

Use your bug house to investigate the relationship of cricket chirps to predict outdoor temperature. Or, use your bug house to investigate if crickets prefer apples or bread.

Ask a question

What type of food do crickets prefer?
Do crickets chirp more when the temperature is higher?

Materials

- mosquito netting tied to a paint stick to make a net
- thermometer
- clip board



Make a prediction

- If an apple slice and piece of bread are placed in the bug house, the cricket will eat the apple slice.
- Crickets will chirp more in warmer weather.

Collect data

- Count how many times the cricket selected to eat the apple versus the bread.
- Count how many chirps in warm weather and then again in cooler weather.

Share your results

- Crickets went to the apple more than the bread.
- More chirps were counted in the warm weather than the cooler weather.

Ages 9–12

Sample an insect population using a mark and recapture technique to estimate population size. Use your bug house to collect and count your insects.



Ask a question

Do more crickets live in one part of my house versus the other?
Do more crickets live in my front yard of backyard?

Materials

- 1 in. x 10 ft. PVC Schedule cut into four equal lengths to create a square frame
- 1.5 inch PVC 90 Degree Hub Elbow to create a square frame
- white marker to mark crickets

Make a prediction

- More crickets will live in my kitchen than my living room.
- More crickets will live in my front yard than my backyard.

Collect data

Use your quadrant to mark a space and record the number of crickets that move within the quadrant. Capture the crickets and use a marker to draw a dot on the body or one of the legs. This ensures you don't continue counting the same cricket.

Share your results

On day 1, we caught and marked 5 crickets.
On day 2 we caught 6 crickets, of which 2 were marked with a dot.

