

# WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop



## BUG HOUSE

Ages 5-8 and 9-12

MAKE. CREATE. EXPLORE

#KidsWorkshopExplore





Use your bug house to carry out a scientific investigation.



Scientists that study insects are called **Entomologists.**

#### Fun Facts:

Insects are found in almost **every climate.**

Insects have **six legs** and **bodies in three sections:** head, thorax and abdomen.

About **80%** of Earth's animals are insects!



## Asking questions is the first step!

Here are some examples.

- Are insects attracted to one color versus another?
- Do ants prefer artificial sweeteners or natural sugar?
- Do fireflies emit different light patterns or the same light pattern?

### What types of insects are easy to catch and observe?

- Crickets
- Grasshoppers
- Fireflies (lightning bugs)
- Ladybugs
- Butterflies
- Ants



### How do I catch insects for my investigation?

- Look under rocks and logs
- Break apart rotting wood
- Use a net
- Use sugar water, corn syrup, or fruit to attract insects

After capturing backyard critters, use your bug house to keep them safe.



Share your discovery! Use **#KidsWorkshopExplore** to post pictures of your experiment and results.

# What do you want to find out about insects?

Here's your  
chance to be an  
**Entomologist!**



Making careful  
observations help  
scientists collect and  
record accurate data.

**What question did you come up with?**

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**What types of insects are easy to catch and observe?**

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**Where could you start looking first?**

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**How do I catch insects for my investigation?**

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**What other materials do you need?**

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**What do you think is going to happen?**

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**What type of data do you need to collect?**

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## Ready? Go! Conduct your experiment!



**What did you find out?**

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# 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.



Share your discovery! Use [#KidsWorkshopExplore](#) to post pictures of your experiment and results.