INSECT PARTS

OVERVIEW
Students will use recycled materials to create their own insect in this scientific investigation about the parts of an insect.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE
Students make their own insect to demonstrate understanding of the parts of an insect.

VOCABULARY
- **INSECT** - a small animal that has six legs and generally one or two pairs of wings
- **ANTENNAE** - a pair of long, thin sensory parts on the heads of insects
- **HEAD** – one of the three main insect body parts that has the eyes, antennae, and mouthparts
- **THORAX** - the middle region of an insect’s body that bears the legs and wings (if wings are present)
- **ABDOMEN** - the last of the three main body parts of an insect
- **EXOSKELETON** - a rigid external covering for the insect body providing both support and protection

MATERIALS
- Pictures of insects and non-insects (spiders)
- **What makes an insect?** visual aid (included)
- **What makes a bee?** visual aid (included)
- Plastic bee or other insect (optional)
- Egg carton(s)
- Pipe cleaners of various colors
- Googly eyes
- Washable paint
- Tacky glue
- Coffee filters for wings
- Markers
- Hole punch

SET-UP
- Cut egg carton into sections of three.
- Cut pipe cleaners into two lengths – shorter for antennae, longer for legs.
- To prep ahead of time – have students paint their insect bodies ahead of the lesson in order to have them dry.
- Familiarize yourself with the song in Step 4 of the lesson plan.

LESSON PLAN
1) Today you are going to make your own insect. Before we can do that, we have to find out - what is an insect? All insects have 6 legs, 3 body parts (head, thorax, abdomen), most have antennae and only some have wings.

2) Show **What makes a bee?** – is a bee an insect? Count the body parts to prove that a bee is an insect (six legs, three body parts, wings, etc.) Do all insects have wings? **No.**
3) Show **What makes an insect?** Is an ant an insect? Use the “rules” of an insect to prove that an ant is also an insect even though it does not have wings.

4) Practice the song “Head, Thorax, Abdomen” to help remember the parts of an insect. Have students point to the parts as you sing together.

To the tune of Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen
Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen
Antenna, six legs, exoskeleton
Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen

**Educator Note:** There are many versions of this song including wings, etc. There are also many instructional online videos demonstrating movements.

5) Reinforce the parts of the insect’s body using a plastic bee or other insect (or a picture of a different insect of your choice).

6) Show students the supplies that they will use to create their own insect. Work with small groups to complete their insect encouraging creativity!

**Educator Note:** It may be easiest to attach the pipe cleaners to the egg carton by first punching a hole where you would like it to be. It is also helpful to take advantage of the wire in the pipe cleaner and wrap it around for stability.

**FURTHER EXTENSION**

**In the Museum**

During your visit to The Museum of Flight, be sure to visit the Tower located above the Side Gallery where there are some interactive displays about insects and flight for your young learners to explore.

**Other Museum Programs**

Encourage families to check out the Bug Exploration Backpack during their next visit to The Museum of Flight from the Alaska Airlines Aerospace Education Center.
What makes a bee?
What makes an insect?

1. ABDOMEN
2. ANTENNA
3. THORAX
4. HEAD
5. LEGS
6. LEGS

THE MUSEUM OF FLIGHT