LESSON 14:
BUILD-A-BUG

SUPPLIES

PENCIL BOX
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks

BIG FOLDER
- Construction Paper (20)
- Cardstock (20)

MAIN BIN
- Pipe cleaners (40)
- Pom-poms (100)
- Googly eyes (100)
- Bottle Caps (50)

OBJECTIVES

- [x] Students will identify and describe the main body parts of an insect (head, thorax, abdomen, legs, antennae, eyes, wings).
- [x] Students will design and build their own bug using craft materials, demonstrating understanding of insect anatomy and creative problem-solving.

INTRODUCTION

3-5 min

Have you ever stopped to look closely at a bug? Bugs come in all shapes, sizes, and colors! Some bugs, like butterflies, have beautiful wings that help them fly. Others, like ants, use their strong legs to carry food much bigger than they are. Bees help flowers grow by carrying pollen, and ladybugs eat tiny plant-eating insects called aphids.

But guess what? Even though they look so different, all bugs—called insects—have the same main body parts! Every insect has a head, a thorax, and an abdomen. The head holds their eyes and antennae, which help them see and smell. The thorax is like the middle part where their legs and wings attach. And the abdomen is the back part, where they digest food and breathe through tiny holes!

HOOK

1 min

Ask students: What makes a bug a bug? Show students images or discuss different bugs they know

Ask:

- "What do you notice about these bugs?"
- "Which one looks different?"
- "How many legs do bugs have?"

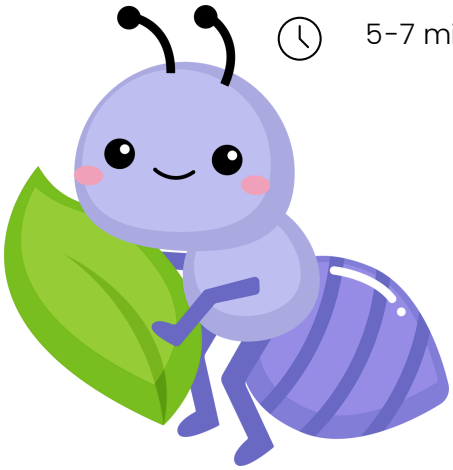
BUG FACTOR

- **Ant Super Strength**: Some ants can lift objects 50 times their own body weight—that's like a kid lifting a car!
- **Butterfly Taste Buds:** Butterflies taste with their feet to find the right plants for laying eggs.
- **Beetle Armor:** Beetles have hard shells called elytra that protect their wings.
- **Bug Numbers:** There are over a million known insect species, and scientists think there might be millions more we haven't discovered yet!

BUILD-A-BUG

DISCUSSION

5-7 min



Discuss the concepts of different types of bugs.

Ask students:

- What body parts does every bug need?
- Do all bugs have wings?
- What might your bug use its antennae for?
- How can we make sure our bug can live in its habitat?

Encourage creativity: “Maybe your bug can glow, swim, or jump—what special parts would help it do that?”

Movement Break

🕷 Bug Moves Game: 🕷

Call out bug names and have students mimic how they move!

“Crawl like an ant!”

“Buzz like a bee!”

“Fly like a butterfly!”

“Wiggle like a caterpillar!”

End with: “Great job, little bugs! Let’s use those busy bug bodies to build our own insects!”

ACTIVITY

35-45 min

1. Have the students plan there bug. Pass put blank paper and pencil have the sketch the bug. Encourage them to use details and color.

2. Pass out materials (glue, scissors, pom-poms, bottle caps, google eyes) to each table, along with a paper plate for each student to build there bug on.

3. Add legs, antennae, eyes, wings, or other final touches!

4. Have the students show off the bug! Have them tell you about the bug and what makes it unique!

BUILD-A-BUG

OBSERVE & EXPLAIN

2 min

Let's look at our bugs and see what unique characteristics we notice! Discuss findings with the class. Here, students observe scientific processes such as:

- Identifying structure and function: Seeing how each body part helps the bug move, sense, or eat.
- Comparing and classifying: Noticing what is similar or different among insects and creative bugs.
- Applying engineering design: Adjusting materials to make their bug stand, balance, or move.

INSTRUCTOR TIP

To minimize mess from loose items encourage the students to use the paper plates to hold material they are working with

Exit Ticket

Ask each student the following questions as they walk out the door.

- Q: Can you identify the head, thorax, and abdomen on your bug?
- Q: Can you name one unique characteristic about your bug?
  - A:Examples include crawl, fly, glow, etc.
- Q: How many legs do bugs have?