

THREE BODY PARTS

Project Skills:

- Participants will be able to name the three body parts common to all insects.

Life Skills:

- Learning to learn

Academic Standards:

- Science C.4.2 Use the science content being learned to ask questions, plan investigations, make observations, make predictions, and offer explanations.

Grade Level: 3

Time: 60 minutes

Supplies Needed:

Snack Activity

- Peanut butter
- Washed celery sticks
- Raisins

Song Activity

- Guitar or piano (optional)
- Insect Flash Cards

Build A Bug Activity

- Styrofoam balls
- Pipe cleaners
- Toothpicks
- Glitter, sequins, ribbon, and assorted decorative materials
- Glue
- Scissors

BACKGROUND

All adult insects have three body parts: head, thorax and abdomen. The wings and legs are *always* attached to the thorax. (Spiders, which are not insects, have two body parts: head and abdomen.)

Insects always have six legs. (Spiders, ticks and other arachnids have eight).

And about that “bug” thing...scientists only use the term “bug” when they speak of a particular group of insects – those that belong to the insect order Hemiptera. They are considered the “true bugs.”

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Snack (Bug Food)

Have the youth wash their hands, and then let them assemble a “buggy” snack like “Ants on a Log.” To prepare “Ants on a Log,” stuff celery sticks with peanut butter and top with raisins.

Activity: Song

All adult insects have *three* body parts:

1. Head
2. Thorax (this is where the wings and the legs are attached)
3. Abdomen



The following song will teach the basics of insect body parts. This song is sung to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.”

A tape recording of the music, or a piano or a guitar (C chord throughout; starting note: E) for accompaniment is a nice touch!

*Three Body Parts
 Three Body Parts
 Here's where they are
 Here's where they are
 The HEAD is connected to a THORAX
 The THORAX is followed by an ABDOMEN
 An insect always has all these
 Three Body Parts
 Three Body Parts*

And remember, insects always have *six* legs! And they are *always* attached to the...thorax!

To reinforce and practice their new knowledge, show the learners insect flash cards (downloadable on many Internet sites, try: www.uky.edu/Agriculture/IPM/teachers/bug-go/bug-go.htm) and have them identify the three basic body parts on the different types of adult insects.

Activity: Build a Bug!

Have assorted materials available for children to choose from as they “Build a Bug.” Encourage the children to be as creative as they want...they don’t have to build a model of a “real” insect, but have them base their creation on “Three Body Parts” and “Six Legs”! Encourage them to attach the legs (and wings, if they choose) to the thorax.

Source:

- Created by Paula Rogers Huff, 4-H Youth Development Agent, UW-Extension, Oconto County

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- What did you learn about insects today?
- What happened when you made your own insect? How is your insect like a real insect? How is it different?

Apply:

- How did the song help you remember how many body parts an insect has?
- If you found a creature that looked like an insect but had only two body parts, what would you think it was?
- Now that you know what an insect looks like, what other questions would you like to ask about insects?

ENHANCE/SIMPLIFY

- The insect flash cards can be used to play “Concentration,” if time permits. This will encourage the children to begin to discriminate characteristics between different insects.

Reviewed by Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool Team: September 2004.