



Insect Field Journal

Introduction

In the book *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs and Other Ughs*, author Anthony Fredericks takes us on one boy's discovery of the insects that hide under a single rock. In this activity, youngsters will create their own "Field Journal" - a simple notebook wildlife biologists frequently use to track the activities of one or more wild animals over the course of an extended period of time.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Cardstock or cardboard (cereal boxes)
- ◆ 10 sheets of 8 1/2 x 11 paper
- ◆ Hole punch or sharp scissors
- ◆ Ribbon

Procedure

1. Fold the paper and cardstock in half.
2. Lay the paper stack over the cardstock cover and pierce holes: one at the center and one above and below - 1" from the top and bottom.
3. Thread the ribbon through holes. Then go in through the opposite hole. Tie the ends together in a double knot.
4. Cut the ribbon off and use the ends to close the notebook.
5. Decorate or color - optional.
6. Invite youngsters to keep a journal of the activities, habits, travels and motions of a single animal. Kids may want to select a house pet or some other animal that can be observed quite regularly throughout the day.

Key Concepts

- ◆ Students answering questions using scientific resources combined with observations.
- ◆ Plan and conduct a simple systematic observation or investigation.
- ◆ Communicate or analyze investigations and explanations that might be drawn or spoken as well as written.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to keep a logbook of the numbers of selected bugs located in a specific area (a room in their house, a section of the classroom, a plot of land in the backyard). Encourage students to record numbers of bugs observed during a designated part of each day (from 3:30 to 4:00 pm, for example) over a selected period of time (one week, for example). Invite students to create a chart or graph that records those numbers for display in the classroom.

Additional Resources

Some fun bug websites to visit:

Lets Talk About Insects

<http://uranext.illinois.edu/insects/03.html>

National Geographic: Bug Photos

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/>

Bug Journal

<http://www.bugjournal.com>

Miniature Marvels

<http://www.insects.org>

