



Learn by Doing!



Interactive Educational Series



Wilson County 4-H
wilson.ces.ncsu.edu

The background of the entire page is a vibrant orange. It is decorated with several green leaves of various shapes and sizes, some with dark green veins. Scattered throughout are several red ladybugs with black spots and black antennae. In the center, there is a large green four-leaf clover with the white letter 'H' on each leaf. The text is positioned in the lower half of the page.

Entomology: Series 3
"Buz-z-z-zing Around"

CREEPLY CRAWLIES

Send us a picture of your work!

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Buz-z-z-zing Around

Activity:

Explore ways in which insects communicate.

Life Skill:

Communication

Science Skill:

Experimenting and observing

Success Indicator:

Describes how insects communicate

Supplies Needed:

Comb, flashlight, poster board

Communication happens when people share information with each other. Sending a thought or idea can be done by writing, speaking, using hand signals and much more. Insects can't read or write but they do communicate with each other. In this activity you will find out how they do it!

BEEgin

See if you can make some of the same sounds that insects make to communicate with each other.

Communication 1

Some insects such as crickets and grasshoppers send messages by **stridulation**, which is making a sound by rubbing one part of the body against another. Rub your fingernail across the teeth of a comb. Describe what you hear.

Crickets and some grasshoppers make sounds using the comb and finger method. Crickets rub their two front wings together and grasshoppers rub the last pair of legs against the wing edge.

Communication 2

Take a flashlight into a darkened room and turn the flashlight off and on. Vary your flashes with short and long light and dark cycles. Describe your light pattern.

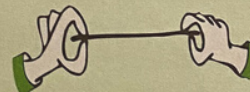
Fireflies use light to communicate with each other.

Communication 3

Hold the top and bottom of a large piece of flexible poster board. Bend the poster board back and forth and listen for the sound. Describe what you hear.

Flex the poster board faster. How does the sound change?

Male cicadas make this sound. You might hear this sound coming from cicadas sitting in trees and shrubs during July and August.



Talking It Over



Insect Facts

Reflect

- What did you learn about communicating without using words?
- What new information did you learn about insect communication?
- How do you communicate your feelings to others?
- Why do insects need to have ways to communicate?

Apply

- What are some times we have to change the way we communicate so others can understand us better?
- What messages can be communicated by the way you sit or stand?
- Describe what happened when you tried to communicate without words with a family member or friend.

Work with friends to make up a song or a story about insects.

Watching insects is a good way to learn how they live.

Insect hand puppets can be used to tell stories about insects.

Insects communicate with each other to warn of danger, to tell of food, to attract mates, to define territories, to recognize members of the same group and to pass other information that helps the group survive.

Method	Structure Used	Function	Insect
Light	Light producing organ at end of abdomen	Attract mates	Fireflies
Sound	File on one wing rubbed against scraper on the other wing	Attract mates, protect territory	Crickets
	Abdomen tapped against wood	Attract mates	Stoneflies
	Head banged against the wall nest	Warn of danger	Soldier termites
Color	Red, black, orange or yellow	Warn of danger	Bees, wasps and hornets

Migrating On

1. With your helper or group, make up a code of sounds to communicate. You might use a series of short sounds to mean one thing and another series of sounds for another meaning.
2. Make a list of how we use light to communicate.
3. For insect sounds visit: www.n4hccs.org



Send us a picture or
video of your work!



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