



# Insect Exploration

## Goal

Introduce students to the insects and other creatures they will find in the garden and their characteristics.

## Curriculum Alignment

Find a list of which Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards this lesson plan aligns with on the lesson plan page at [www.growing-minds.org](http://www.growing-minds.org).

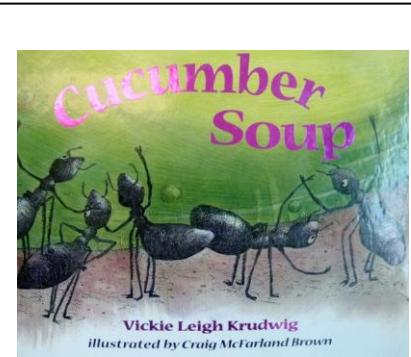
## Materials

- Insect Facts sheet, Facts About Garden Friends sheet, and Creatures in the Garden Pictures (all included in lesson plan materials)
- White paper
- Colored pencils
- Optional: washable paints

## Activities

### Read a Book

Cucumber Soup by Vickie Krudwig introduces students to 10 different garden creatures and follows them as they work together to move a cucumber out of their path. The book includes a recipe for cucumber soup at the end. Optional: introduce students to field guides with Peterson's First Guide to Insects.



### Books to Read

- Cucumber Soup  
by Vickie Krudwig
- Peterson's First Guide to Insects  
by Christopher Leahy

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Talk with the students about the characteristics of an insect. (All insects have a head, thorax, abdomen, six legs, and sometimes wings). Read the first paragraph (in green) on the "Insect Facts" page, and draw the parts of an insect on the board as you read it. Ask the students to brainstorm different things they think are insects. Show students Creatures in the Garden Pictures. Ask them if they can identify which creatures are not insects (earthworms, centipedes, spiders). Write the name of each garden creature on the board. Ask the students to brainstorm the things they know about each creature. Where have they seen the creatures, what do they think they eat? How long do they live? Add more facts about each garden friend, using the information on the "Facts about Garden Friends" page.

## Optional

Go out to the garden and see if the kids can spot any of the creatures. What were they doing in the garden? Ask the group to choose one garden friend to select as their "class creature." Refer to the Making Garden Signs lesson plan for ideas of class signs that students could make that feature their teacher's name and their "class creature".

Growing Minds is a program of ASAP (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project).

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## Make a Journal Page

Ask the students to make a journal page about one of their garden friends. They can draw it and its environment, write facts about it, paste pictures, etc.

## Optional

With finger or washable paints, ask the students to use their fingers to create the body of different garden creatures (or the thorax of insects). Using a pencil or pen, they can add the head, abdomen, antenna, legs, and wings.