

Pre-Field Trip Activities: Little Things, Big Jobs



Human Chores, Arthropod Chores

Time: 10 - 20 minutes

Materials:

- White board or poster paper with markers

Purpose:

During the Little Things, Big Jobs field trip the students will learn about three specific jobs that arthropods do for humans. Students can prepare for the field trip by thinking about the jobs (aka: chores) that they do both at home and in the classroom. Understanding how their own lives flow smoothly when everyone is helping out and doing their chores sets them up to better understand how arthropods play an important part in making our ecosystems run smoothly.

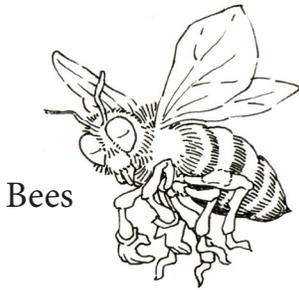
Lesson Steps:

- Discuss with the students what chores they do at home.
- List these on the white board and group them together into rough categories: cleaning, trash, babysitting siblings.
- Ask the students if they think that arthropods have chores or jobs like they do and write down what some of those chores might be. Possible answers include: doing the dishes, taking out the trash, cleaning their rooms. You can also use classroom jobs if that applies to your group.
- Let students know that during the field trip they will be learning about all the chores that insects do to help our ecosystems run more smoothly.
- Pass out the Arthropod Chores activity sheet and have students color in the scene and use the word bank to guess the jobs that each arthropod in the picture has.
- Use the answer key to give them the right answers. Let students know that during the field trip they will learn all about each of the three jobs found in the picture: Pollination, Pest Control and Decomposition.

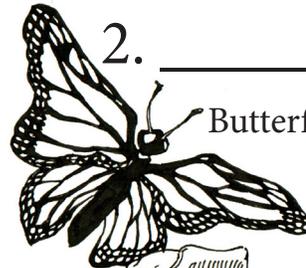
Little Things, Big Jobs: Arthropod Chores

What jobs do you think all of these arthropods have that help humans? Color them in and use the word bank to fill in the jobs that you think each one has.

1. _____



Bees



2. _____

Butterflies



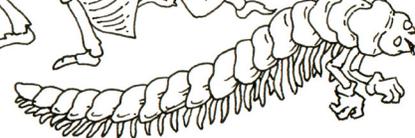
Beetles

Spiders



Ants

4. _____



Millipedes

3. _____

Word Bank: One word is used twice

Pest Control: Eating or killing bugs that humans don't want to have around.

Pollination: Moving pollen from flower to flower so that new seeds can be created.

Decomposition: Breaking down dead plants and animals into their most basic parts, creating new soil.