

## hands-on lessons that

### Friendly Bugs

Get ready for a bug adventure! Spark creativity and imagination with these colorful, crawling creatures!

**Grade Level:** PK-2

#### Objectives

Students will identify characteristics of insects.  
Students will sort insects into groups with common attributes.  
Students will create a model of a bug.

#### Literature Selections

*Bugs A to Z* by Caroline Lawton  
*Fly Guy Presents: Insects* by Tedd Arnold

#### Skills

fine motor skills, gluing, sorting, compare and contrast

#### Set up and Prepare

##### Content Overview

Begin the lesson by taking the students on a “book walk” of *Fly Guy Presents: Insects* by Tedd Arnold. Before reading it, engage them in a discussion about the book and let them make predictions about it. Share the cover and ask them students what kind of book they think it is. Read the blurb on the back cover and ask them if they think this is a true story or a silly story. Who wrote the book?

Read the book aloud to the students. Be sure to share the fun illustrations examples of onomatopoeia. After reading, discuss some of the facts about insects that the author shared. Which facts did you already know? What new facts did you learn from the story.

Next, read *Bugs A to Z* by Caroline Lawton aloud to the students. How is this book different from the first? How are they similar? Prompt the students to respond to the literature by sharing which book they enjoyed more and the reasons why. Now that the students have a basic understanding of the characteristics of insects, explain that they will create a class collection of their own imaginative bugs.



#### Materials

Elmer's® School Glue or Elmer's Glue-All®, Small and medium foam balls, tempera paint, toothpicks, pipe cleaners, jiggly eyes, scissors

#### Preparation

Cover the work surface. Prepare the foam balls in advance by cutting them in half. Provide various sizes of foam halves and pipe cleaner segments for the legs and antennae.



### Directions

Instruct the students to decide how many body parts (foam halves) their bugs will have. Demonstrate how to connect the bug body parts using toothpicks to keep them together. Apply a small amount of glue between the body parts to reinforce.

Paint the bugs. Talk about the different kinds of designs they may want to make on their bugs (i.e., strips, spots, zig zag, etc.). Allow time for the paint and the glue to dry.

Use a toothpick to make a small hole where the legs and antennae should be placed. Apply a small amount of glue in each hole before adding the pipe cleaners to the head and body. Bend the pipe cleaners to resemble jointed legs or curved antennae.

Apply a small amount of glue to the jiggly eyes to complete the bug.



### Lesson Extensions

Reinforce classification skills by giving students an opportunity to sort their bugs into two groups. Divide the class in half and instruct them to display all of the bugs together and discuss how they might sort the bugs. Add greater variety by providing a collection of plastic bugs (available at many dollar stores) and allow time for students to classify them. Discuss how their classification systems changed when the plastic bugs were included.

Take students on a nature walk to look for insects and observe them in their natural environment.

Set up a discover center in the classroom with a variety of books about insects and bugs. Consider including a real bug collection and hand lenses to make the learning real and relevant.

### Standards

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.