

# The Bug Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

## Insect Investigations

My teaching place has lots of nature spaces for children to explore. Every spring children are busy collecting caterpillars, ladybugs, beetles and the like and creating little homes for them. I have been intrigued with the running theme at CTA of children teaching children as I see this happening at the preschool in an informal way. I have been thinking of how I could use this in the more structured environment of the elementary school setting but keep it natural by tapping into what children are really passionate about. This lesson is meant to be a child created and led introduction to a unit on insects.

**Objective:** To spark interest in the study of insects through the engagement of “peer scientists” who will present the class with fun facts about the insects they have studied.

**SOL's:** Science: 2.4, 2.5

This activity will occur during unstructured times over the course of a week. Recess would be great if there is a nature scape available.

### **Procedure:**

1. Through observation of children's conversations and their interaction with nature, the teacher will identify 2 or more children who are interested in knowing about insects. The teacher will invite them to be part of the Bug Brigade. Children will be provided with bug boxes for collecting specimens outside, a camera for photographing bugs, magnifying glasses, bug reference books, index cards, and pencils.
2. Teacher will meet with the brigade and gather questions from the children of what they might want to know about the bugs. The teacher will meet back with the group daily to help them structure their thoughts through questions.

3. Children find their bugs, and with the help of their reference books, they will identify, and come up with at least 3 fun facts about insects, one per card. Their fact cards should include a photograph of the bug or insect if the fact is particular to that one. Others may see the children and want to join. All are welcome. The more the merrier.

4. As part of the introduction to insects, the bug brigade will present their findings to the class and talk about what was really fun about their project. The index cards will be displayed on the wall and added to for reference as children discover more fun facts.

**Assessment:** Teacher observation of enthusiasm by the Bug Brigade and how that enthusiasm transfers to the rest of the class.