



## An Invertebrate's School Life

**Ideal for grade 2**

**Appropriate for grades:** K-4

**Materials Needed:** Outdoor space, writing materials

**Activity Categories:** pre-visit, post-visit, needs of living things, writing, observation, animals

The teacher can take students around the school grounds looking for as many invertebrates as they can find – including arachnids, insects, other arthropods, and worms. Pictures of these can be used to document the class' findings and presented as a slide show. Students can be involved in taking the pictures.

Students can make a nature journal by folding blank white paper together and either stapling at the spine or hole punching and stringing together the sheets (this also makes it easy to add pages later). Students should be encouraged to draw and decorate their front cover. All the invertebrate data should be collected in their journals, and then compiled in the classroom.

The teacher could use the information in various ways:

- Graph the findings by category (with/without stripes, with/without wings, color, etc)
- Have the students choose one invertebrate to be researched. Compile information about it such as its scientific name, locations it is most likely found, what it eats, and other facts.
- Choose a "class invertebrate" and think of a name that would best describe the invertebrate. This could be done as a contest, the student with the name that best describes the bug wins!

This activity can be done with birds, plants, or other animals around the school. The class could do this regularly (weekly or monthly) and compile their findings over the school year.

**Pre-Visit modifications:** Plan to find your organism, or related organisms, at the museum when you visit. See how much you can learn about it. Bring your nature journal to the museum.

**Post-Visit modifications:** Did you see organisms at the museum you can add into your graphs?

**Important reminders:** encourage students to look, but don't handle the organism too much. If you move something, put it back. Discuss how you would like to be handled by something hundreds of times larger than you!