



Engaging with Nature

WEEKLY IDEAS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND EDUCATORS

Questions to Guide Discussions Take a Closer Look at Insects

How does your life intersect with insects?

What insects have you observed outdoors? How are they similar/different?

How do insects make you feel?



Photo by Emma O'Donnell

No Tech Activities

No devices or apps needed

Study an Insect

Pretend you are an entomologist (*a scientist who studies insects*).

Follow an insect and learn where it lives, what it eats and how it interacts with its world.

Record your findings by:

- Drawing the insect
- Describing the insect OR
- Creating a story about the insect's journey

Low Tech Activities

Mobile device/Wi-Fi access

Insect Identification

Curious about insects? Want to identify an insect? Check out this website:

Insect Identification:

<https://www.insectidentification.org/>

Learn more about Maryland insects in this episode of **Nature Nerds** with Carly and Adventure Kid Sam:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SHNjVvyjF8&t=99s>

High Tech Activities

Device/Internet Access/Online Tools

Beetle Dissection

Learn more about beetles through activities, an X-ray, and a beetle dissection! Then, discover more about insects and how they are similar to humans.

Arizona State University - Ask a Biologist

<https://askbiologist.asu.edu/beetle-dissection>

Outdoor Safety Tip

When approaching bugs, keep a respectful distance from them. It is best to observe them from a distance rather than to startle them into a negative response.

KEY TIMES to Wear a Cloth Face Cover



- ✓ Out in public
- ✓ Sick and interacting with others at home
- ✓ Caring for someone sick at home

Cloth face coverings should **NOT** be worn by:

- Children under age 2
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who can't take off the cover without help from another person (e.g., if someone is unconscious or paralyzed)

Your cloth face cover may help protect others. Their cloth face cover may protect you.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19-4-00212020

Featured Place

Annapolis Rock/Black Rock Cliff South Mountain State Park

This beautiful hike is filled with incredible views, plants, animals and even insects and is part of the Appalachian Trail!

<https://www.hikingupward.com/OMH/AnnapolisRockBlackRockCliff/>



<https://tinyurl.com/y3xg66rm>

Cre tu propio parque estatal
<https://tinyurl.com/y5xwvwnl>

Summer Camps - For Kids

Alice Ferguson Foundation Summer Adventure Camp
<https://fergusonfoundation.org/summercamps/>

Arlington Echo Family Camps 2020 - Echo @ Home
<https://www.arlingtonecho.org/camps/echo-home.html>

Carrie Murray Nature Center - Summer Nature Camp
<https://www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/summer-nature-camp>

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum - Rising Tide Virtual Workshops
<https://forms.gle/mX8VCAXaUfTVBd77A>

Echoes of Nature - Virtual Summer Camps 2020
<https://www.echoesofnature.org/summer-virtual-camps>
<https://tinyurl.com/y5zappr2>; <https://tinyurl.com/yyt6c8m2>

Fair Hill Nature Center - Summer Day Camps
<https://fairhillnature.org/day-programs.html>

Leaders of Tomorrow (LTYC) - LEARN Virtual Arts Camp
<http://ltyc.net/programs/>; <https://tinyurl.com/yyo6u4ye>

NorthBay Adventure Family Camp
<https://northbayadventure.org/familycamp/>

Ocean City Estuary Explorers
<https://camps.oceancitymd.gov/estuary-explorers-camp/>

Pickering Creek Audubon Center - EcoCamp From Home!
<https://act.audubon.org/a/ecocamp-home>

For Adults

Enrichment

NAAEE Monthly Webinar Series
<https://naaee.org/eeopro/learning/monthly-webinar-series>

Hour-long webinars on topics of key interest in environmental education. Register for upcoming events or view recorded events.

Professional Development

Maryland Centers for Creative Classrooms

Virtual Professional Learning
<https://tinyurl.com/yxzjuxol>
Choose your own CPD adventure!

MSDE Professional Learning Opportunities

Fall Online Course Booklet
<https://tinyurl.com/j7sfm28>

Sea Grant Delaware #75MinuteScienc

Four 75-minute virtual teacher workshops in August. \$10 registration fee includes all four virtual workshops and a 1-year membership to the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Assoc.
www.mamea.org/demini.html

Featured Website - Entomology Today

Brought to you by the American Entomological Society of America
<https://entomologytoday.org/2020/03/27/learning-at-home-with-bugs/>

This website has lots of handy insect-related activities for parents and caregivers to keep children active and learning without a lot of supplies. There are four categories of activities on this page: Print and Make, Activities to Do Together, Community Science with Your Phone, and Watch and Do Online.