



Bug Walk

Science – Grade 1-3

Groups of 5 students collect and observe the movements of a six-legged insect then learn to work together to walk like the insect.

Materials:

- Clear containers to hold the insects
- Rope or material to use as ties

Instructions:

1. Have groups of 5 students each collect a six-legged insect from outside and place it in a clear container. Observe how the insect moves its legs as it walks. (If the insect is moving too quickly to observe the legs, place the container in a refrigerator for a few minutes). If the insect is large enough and moves slowly, they should be able to observe that the insect will raise the front and back legs on one side of the body and raise the middle leg on the other side, forming a tripod on which the body rests.
2. Have the students learn to walk like they observed the insect do. Line the group of 5 students up one behind the other. Next, tie the right leg of the first student to the right leg of the second, the left leg of the second to the left leg of the third, etc. The first and last students will have one leg free, giving a total of six legs for the “insect.”
3. Let the students first try to walk without any instruction. After a few tries, instruct the student at the front to be the “coordination center” for the group. That student will direct movement by stating, “left, right, left, right,” and so on. The movement of the group should be smoother.

Have the students answer the following questions about their observations and experience:

- a. Describe how the insect moved its legs.
 - b. What happened when your team moved as an insect?
 - c. How do insects coordinate the movement of their legs?
4. When finished, gently return the insect to its home.