

Am I an insect-

Objective: Students identify key insect body parts or structures and consider their function.

Preparation:

- Gather Am I an Insect? Cards; an insect field guide and/or the laminated guide page of beneficial and pest insects; and the diagram of an insect.
- Optional – gather 4-5 creatures into magnified boxes

Action:

1. Give each student an “am I an Insect? Card and give them time to decide if it is an insect or not. Have them place the card in an insect pile or a non-insect pile and repeat until all cards have been seen.
2. Show them the diagram of an insect – pointing out the 3 body parts and 6 legs.
3. Go through the pile of insect cards and see if everyone agrees that they are insects. Point out why or why not and repeat with the non-insect pile.
4. If time permits introduce the idea of beneficial and pest insects and look at the laminated guide page.
5. Look at the collected creatures or in the garden for examples if it is convenient to your station location. Determine whether these gathered/found creatures are insects or not and why.

Questions:

1. What are the different parts of an insect? What sorts of insects did you find in our garden? What characteristics between insect and non-insect creatures are the same? What are different? (6 legs, 2 antenna, 3 body parts, compound eye, mouthparts are different on different insects)