

Instructions for Student Exploration
1) Shake! Place your sheet on the ground under some overhanging vegetation of your tree. Vigorously shake the overhanging vegetation for several seconds. <i>Safety Note: Check the area for wasp or bee nests and poison ivy prior to shaking the vegetation.</i>
2) Collect! Use bug boxes and/or jars to collect insects and spiders that fall onto the sheet. Observe closely and move quickly because some types of creatures may quickly fly away from the sheet after falling!
3) Observe! Choose one insect or spider to observe closely. Record as many different observations as you can. (Record five written observations, make a diagram with labels, and/or answer fair questions.)
4) Name! If you were the first scientist to discover this creature, what would you name it? Keep in mind that scientists try to name things based on their observations; you should try to do the same.
5) Wonder! Write down “I wonder” questions that you may have about your creature now that you’ve spent time observing it. We will review these questions back in the classroom with our resources.
6) Classify! Use the handouts and field guides provided to classify your creature into an <i>order</i> .
7) Collect data! Count how many creatures you have in each order. Record this data on the data sheet.

Directions for catching a bug
• Everyone – Catch a bug in a bug box. <i>Safety Note: Make sure specimen is caught and kept in your container.</i>
• Share your bug with your group. <i>Safety Note: Keep specimen in container while sharing with the group.</i>
• Pick one bug to be the group bug.
As a group:
• Together, make 5 observations about your bug – include a sketch and non-standard measurement as an observation.
• Choose 3 fair questions and answer in your journal.
• Develop 5 fair questions about your bug.
• Identify – use field guide to identify your bug but also give your own name to your bug.
•
Be ready to share your bug with the entire class!