

CATCHING INSECTS

Level – any

Subject – Clil – biology

Aids: nets, bug magnifier, insect guide, tweezers

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Instructions:

- divide the class into groups, tell them and show different ways of catching insects
 - look for good areas outside, where they can find more insects
 - around water - look for dragonflies in the air, water striders on the surface, and different kinds of water beetles on plants growing in the water. Use a fish net and/or a turkey baster to collect insects out of the water.
 - in a field - use the sweep method: Carefully swing your net through the top edge of the grass and see what you catch in the end of your net.
 - students identify insects, take photos and make reports
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Insect Identification Worksheet



Draw the insect

Insect Identification

Name of Insect: _____

Date Found: _____

Size of the Insect

Is the insect bigger or smaller than a quarter?

Insect Habitat

Describe where did you found the insect?

Insect Characteristics

How many legs does the insect have? _____

Does the insect have wings? _____

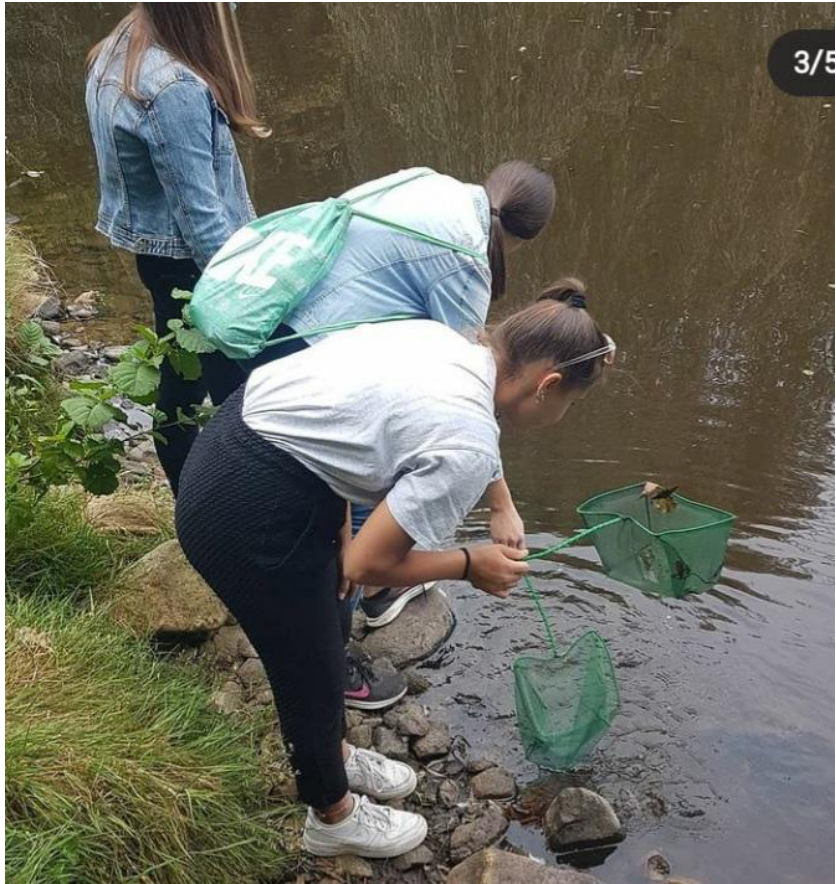
Can you see the insect's eyes? _____

Does the insect have separate body parts? _____

How many body parts does the insect have? _____

Is the insect's body soft or hard? _____

What colour is the insect? _____





There are all kinds of different ways to attract and catch insects.

Some simple tips

You can catch lots of insects with just your fingers. Plastic containers with lids are useful, as are Ziploc-type plastic bags. A pair of tweezers is another inexpensive tool. A soft brush is good for collecting larvae.

Butterfly net

This type of net is used mainly to catch flying insects. There are two techniques: you can either catch the insect in flight by swinging the net sideways, or you can lower the net over the insect to trap it.

Sweep net

This kind of net is good for collecting insects in high grass and shrubs. You swing it quickly back and forth through the vegetation to take insects by surprise.

Aquatic net

This kind of net is used to catch aquatic insects, by sweeping it quickly back and forth in the water. It can also be held facing upstream at the bottom of a shallow stream, to catch insects as they are carried along by the current.

Beating

This method involves beating low branches to shake off any insects. First place something underneath the branches to catch the falling insects.

Pitfall trap

This is basically a container buried in the ground. Insects tumble in and become trapped. You can leave it empty or add some kind of bait (honey, bread, oatmeal) or fill the bottom with liquid to drown any insects that fall in.

Light trap

Prepare this nighttime trap by placing a source of light in front of a white surface, like a sheet strung between two trees. The trap doesn't actually catch any insects – you have to do that yourself.

Pooter

This odd instrument is used to collect small insects without damaging them. Most models are a transparent cylinder with two tubes. You place the flexible suction tube in your mouth and use the other, rigid tube to draw the insect up into the chamber.