



# The secret world of insects

This activity uses photography as a tool to explore the living world in the kindergarten yard. The teacher encourages children to explore the playground in search of insects and children document their discoveries with cameras.



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## Learning outcomes

### **Competencies**

Visual competence: observing details

Social competences: interaction and cooperation with others

Digital and media competence: basic knowledge of digital photography (macro)

Competence in science: learning about the natural world and scientific methods

### **Target group**

→ 6 years and up

Individual work

Work in pairs

Small groups

### **Required materials**

Camera

Computer

Printer

Glue

Magnifying glasses

### **Materials**

Examples of macro photography

Bingo cards insects

## Description of the activity (step by step)

### Preparation:

Start a conversation about the living world of the kindergarten playground or the nearby park. What animals and plants did the children encounter there? Let them think of as many as possible.

Talk about insects. Which ones do the children know and how do they recognize them? Can they see them well? Do they have any ideas on how they could observe them more closely?

Explain to them that there are devices that help people see small and tiny animals and objects and also photograph them. You can show them some examples of macro photography. Explain that they will search for insects on the playground, observe them with magnifying glasses, and photograph them with the help of the macro-setting. Explain how to make macro-photos with the available cameras.

### Implementation:

Head out to the playground or the park. Distribute the cameras and magnifying glasses and let the children explore the surroundings. Children can look for animals individually or in small groups.

You can take some books about insects with you and help them look at the animals up at the spot.

### Reflection:

Upload the photos to the computer. Look at them together and look the depicted insects up in an encyclopedia. Find out how they are called, where they live, and what they eat. The children should observe the photos and find out how many legs the creatures have, whether they have wings, what kind of eyes they have, etc.

Create posters about different kinds of insects. The children glue the photos in the middle and draw the environment of the animal and their prey or food. They can also look for pictures on the internet, print them, and glue them on the poster.

Keep them interested by playing games about insects and exploring the micro world of our surroundings further!

## Variations and additional ideas

Play the Insect bingo game! Print out the template. Each child receives a bingo sheet and a child draws the plates from a bag. The children need to know the names of the insects to name them (if they are the ones to draw the plates) or find them on their bingo sheet. The child who fills his or her bingo sheet first wins the game and gets to draw the insect plates next.

Create a memory game with photographs of insects!

You can use the micro setting in several creative activities; challenge the children to photograph details of their toys, eyes of each other, flowers, explore different kinds of surfaces, etc. Such photographs are great for guessing games as well!

## Background information and didactical perspective

Macro photography is a kind of photography, where the photographer gets very close to the subject. The goal is to make something that is small in real life appear larger on the photograph. You can use a special lens that enables you to shoot in great detail or choose a macro setting on the camera. The macro setting is usually marked with a flower and offers reproduction ratios around 1:4.