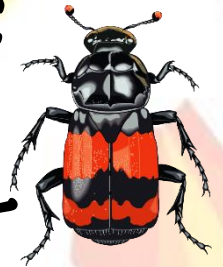


This activity learning resources that continue to support the environmental sciences and Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance to you or students.



Characteristics of Insects WebQuest



Introduction:

All living organisms are defined by specific characteristics. In this WebQuest we will explore what qualities define one of the most successful groups of living things, the insects! These diverse ancient animals have conquered many environments on earth due to their unique abilities and traits. We will look at what makes them so successful and such an important role in the web of life.



biotic



abiotic

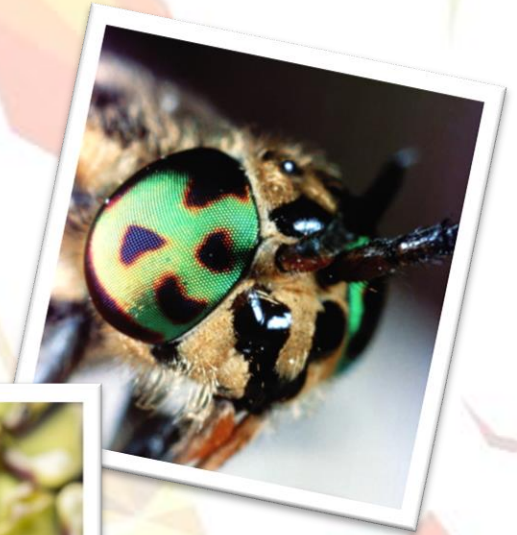
Think:

1. What does it mean to be a [living thing](#)?



Dig Deeper:

1. [What is an insect?](#)
2. General characteristics of Insects
 - Compound Eyes
 - Antennae
 - Six Legs
 - Three Body Regions
 - Two Wing Pairs
 - Exoskeleton



Discuss:

Insects use a variety of [defense mechanism](#) to avoid being eaten and defend themselves. We can break these characteristics down into four main categories; camouflage, startle, disrupt and warn.

[Entomophagy](#) is the practice of consuming insects for food; it is constructed from the Greek words “entomon” which means insect and “phagein” to eat. In most parts of the world eating insects is common. In fact, over 1,900 species of insects are eaten in 80% of the world’s countries, 58% as primary food source.

Who is eating insects?

Europe & North Americas
DUE TO LONG HELD STIGMAS, EATING BUGS IS NOT COMMON IN THE WESTERN WORLD.

Mexico
YOU MAY FIND AGAVE WORM, GRASSHOPPERS AND ANT EGGS AS OPTIONS IN STREET TACO CARTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

SOUTH AFRICA
LOCUSTS ADD A CRUNCH TO THE STAPLE CORNMEAL PORRIDGE

AUSTRALIA
ROASTED GRUBS IS A STANDARD OF THE ABORIGINAL DIET AND WHEN ROASTED TASTES LIKE ALMONDS.

CHINA
WINGED TERMITES ARE A POPULAR DISH DURING RAINY SEASON AND ARE PREPARED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.

THAILAND
FRIED INSECTS CAN BE FOUND AT MOST LOCAL BARS REPLACING PEANUTS AS THE SALTY COMPLEMENT TO DRINKS.

Lee County Mosquito Control District



Learn More:

[Mosquito Biology](#)

1. What are mosquitoes? [Which Mosquitoes Are Bad?](#)
2. How many mosquitoes do we currently have in Florida?
3. How many mosquitoes do we have worldwide?
4. How many mosquitoes are dangerous to people?

[How do Mosquitoes Spread Disease?](#)

[What can you do to reduce mosquito populations?](#)

[Mosquito Control 101](#)

1. Where can I find up to date information from [Lee County Mosquito Control](#) and the [Lee County Mosquito Education Program](#).
2. Where can I learn more about local mosquitoes and [mosquito control operations?](#)
3. Where can I find what areas of Lee County are being [treated?](#)
How would some make a [service request?](#)

