



Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET

March 2009

Why talk about Insects?



Most people are scared, or at least wary, of almost all insects (more correctly arthropods) based on reasonable or unreasonable fears. But, insects are integral to all human cultures. They are part of our language, art, history, philosophy, and religion. They are directly useful to human beings by producing honey, silk, wax, lacquer and other products. They also play the important roles of pollinators of crops, and scavengers. Some of them are natural enemies of pests, and food for other creatures. However, as human society has become progressively more urbanised, we have become more distanced from the world of critters. But can we live without them?

Name.....

School Name

Class..... Date.....

Gobar Gyan:

Many insects are herbivores, or plant-eaters, which makes them primary consumers. This abundance of primary consumers provides protein and energy for secondary consumers, known as carnivores. There are many secondary consumers, such as lizards, spiders, snakes, and toads that could not survive without feeding on insects. Tertiary consumers eat other carnivores; for example, bears and chimpanzees eat insects as well as other animals. So if we destroy the insect we disturb the entire eco-system.



Activity 1: Find out the various insects in your household.

Insect:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Got Bugs?



Hi! I am Pandit Gobar Ganesh. You will find me in Gobar Times—a magazine that tells you how your everyday life is linked to the world around you. Hooked, huh? If you want to know more about me and Gobartimes visit us at:

www.gobartimes.org

Also go to the internet and find out two advantages and disadvantage of the insect.

Advantages:

- Insect 1. _____
- _____
- Insect 2. _____
- _____
- Insect 3. _____
- _____
- Insect 4. _____
- _____
- Insect 5. _____
- _____



Disadvantages:

- Insect 1. _____
- Insect 2. _____
- Insect 3. _____
- Insect 4. _____
- Insect 5. _____

By now you are aware of some of the ill effects of the insects found at your home. There is another insect that is a menace in house holds and that is the bed bug. Bed bugs are small wingless insects that feed solely upon the blood of warm-blooded animals. Hatchling bed bugs are about the size of a poppy seed, and adults are about 1/4 of an inch in length. Their color ranges from nearly white or a light tan to a deep brown or burnt orange.

Bed bug bites at night which can cause mild to intense allergic responses. But bed bugs are not known to transmit any infectious agents. They seek shelter in dark cracks and crevices. Their hiding sites include the bed frame, mattress and box spring. Most treatment products for bed bugs use pesticides to kill the bugs. Permethrins and pyrethrins are common ingredients.

Bed bugs' population has resurged. It has become a menace, so much so that there is an international conference taking place where various entomologists have gathered to find a solution to these increasing numbers.



Activity 2: Go to a shop and find out the pesticides and insecticides available there. Check out the components. What are the effects of the chemicals used? Are they doing more harm than good?



Name of Pesticide

Components

| | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ |

Effects: _____

Activity 3: Nowadays, pesticides and various other sprays are being used to get rid of bed bugs. But was it always like that? Interview your grandfather, grandmother, parents etc and find out what they did to deal with the problem? How much trouble did it cause them? Did the bed bug cause any diseases? Did it cause any allergy?

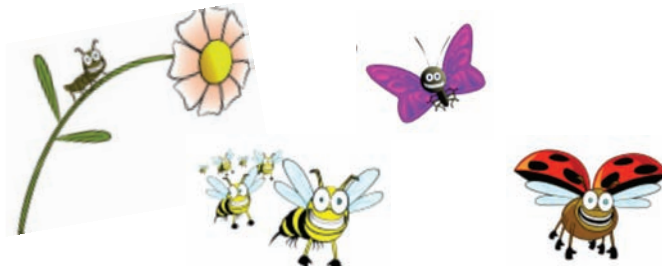


"There's a gleam in his eye!"

Traditional pest Management: _____

Activity 4: Also look up on the various entomologists and what did they have to say in the conference on bed bugs that took place recently. Find out about this conference at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/apr/14/us-bed-bugs-environment-epa>



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