WASATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS

Garden Lesson: Hummus Bugs

AGE GROUP: GRADE K-6 TIME TO COMPLETE: 30-45 MIN

INTRODUCTION

In this activity, we'll encourage students to play with their food and exercise their creativity to create an anatomically correct bug that can survive in any environment of their choosing.

There are many different types of insects found in the garden and they can look very different compared to one another. As students explore the basic structure of an insect they can also connect why some physical adaptions are necessary.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the basic structures of insects and what they do
- Create an anatomically correct bug model
- Connect different anatomical features to specific adaptions and life styles of different insects

STATE STANDARDS

Standard 2.2.1

Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about patterns of living things (plants and animals, including humans) in different habitats. Emphasize the diversity of living things in land and water habitats.

Standard 2.2.2

Plan and carry out an investigation of the structure and function of plant and animal parts in different habitats. Emphasize how different plants and animals have different structures to survive in their habitat.

Standard 4.1.1 could also apply

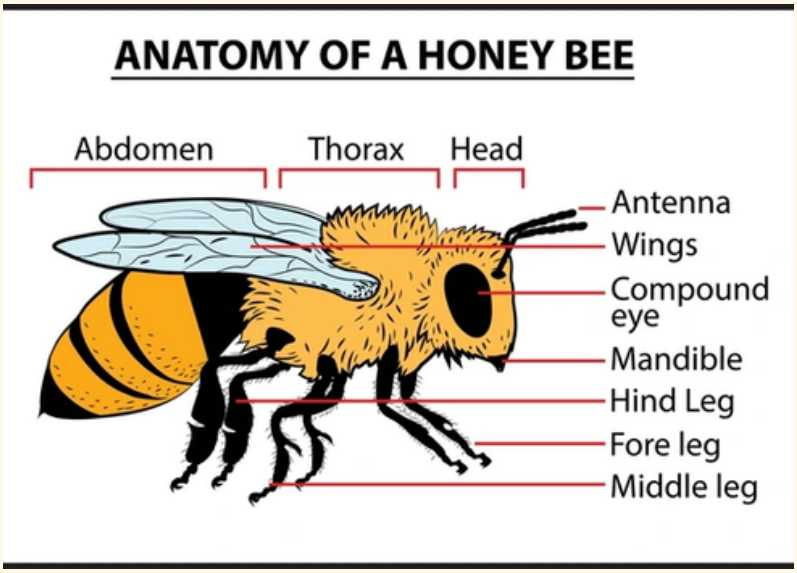
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Here's some Insects that could be some great examples to highlight that live in the garden (link to insect descriptions included) to help get the creative flow going

- Grasshoppers are herbivores; they eat the plants that are growing in the garden.They mostly eat leaves, but also flowers,stems, and seeds
- Praying Mantis are carnivores, eating mainly insects and other small animals. Many gardeners and farmers welcome mantis, because the insects they eat are often pests that hurt crops.
- Pillbugs have three sections to their body: the head, the middle thorax, and the end abdomen. On their head, they have eyes and antennae. One of the coolest behaviors of pillbugs is they way that they roll up into a bal

MATERIALS

- Hummus
- Crackers
- Assorted Sliced Vegetables
  - Bell peppers
  - Carrot
  - Cherry tomatoes
  - Spinach
- Plates



PROCEDURE

1. Set up a plate for each of your students: add a few crackers, a little hummus, and some assorted slices vegetables to each plate and put them somewhere out of reach for now.
2. Explain the different parts of insects and ask the students to guess what each part does. It helps to have a visual.
3. Prompt the students to use the materials they are given to create an insect that's anatomically correct, and has adaptations to live in any environment of their choosing.
4. Distribute plates and allow students to go for it. Let them know that once they are finished, you'll take a photo of their creation and then they can eat it.
5. Debrief accordingly.

EXTENSIONS

- Now that your students are accommodated with insects in the garden you could take them to go on a bug hunt!
- Students can do a mini research project on garden insects or more specifically pollinators and how they interact in the garden
- Students can help plan a pollinator garden to help support insects