

Introduction to Entomology

During STEM Day 6, students were introduced to the world of insects and the science of entomology. They learned about insect anatomy, including major body regions and specialized structures that help insects survive in diverse environments. Students also explored how insects are classified and how scientists group organisms based on shared characteristics.

Through field collection, observation, classification, and specimen preparation, students experienced the work of real entomologists. The activities helped build skills in scientific observation, critical thinking, and the use of tools that support biodiversity research and insect conservation.



References & Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to **Cali Granger** for leading our Entomology Day activities and providing students with a hands-on introduction to insect biology, collection methods, identification techniques, and scientific specimen preparation. Her expertise and enthusiasm made this STEM experience educational and inspiring.
*Poster created by Amy Miller. Text assistance provided by Microsoft Copilot (AI); content reviewed and approved by program staff.

Insect Collections

Students gained hands-on experience using a variety of insect collection techniques commonly used by entomologists. Collection methods included Malaise traps, pan traps placed in survey plots, ground traps, Berlese funnels for extracting insects from leaf litter, and active netting techniques.

Using dichotomous keys, students learned how scientists identify insect species by examining their physical characteristics. After identification, students practiced proper specimen preparation techniques, including labeling, pinning, and mounting insects. These skills are essential for creating and maintaining scientific insect collections used for research, education, and conservation.

