

# LETTER TO PARENTS

*Cut here and paste onto school letterhead before making copies.*

---

---

## SCIENCE NEWS

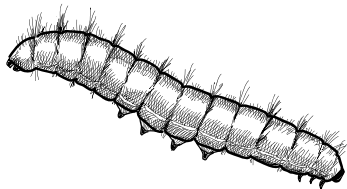
---

---

Dear Parents,

Our class is beginning a scientific study of insects and plants. We will be caring for and investigating several different insects, and growing a plant from seed, to discover secrets of their lives. Some of the insects that will be visiting our class undergo complete metamorphosis, as in the classic case of the butterfly—egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Other insects reach maturity by growing through a less dramatic sequence of stages in a process known as simple metamorphosis. The plant we will grow will go through its full life cycle—seed to plant to flower to seed, in just one month. Your child may demonstrate a heightened interest in insects and plants over the next several weeks.

One goal of our work with insects is to help the children develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity of life and to cultivate a sense of respect for all living things. If your child wants to catch an insect in a jar, please invite your child's insect friend into your home for a short time, and encourage him or her to return the insect to the wild after a short captivity. If you are interested in seeing what we have going on, as usual you are invited to visit and take part in the excitement. We're looking forward to lots of fun and lots of learning as we explore a world full of insects!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

## INVESTIGATION 1: MEALWORMS

### **NEWS FLASH!**

Today we received a new insect. It is a \_\_\_\_\_

Here are three facts about it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

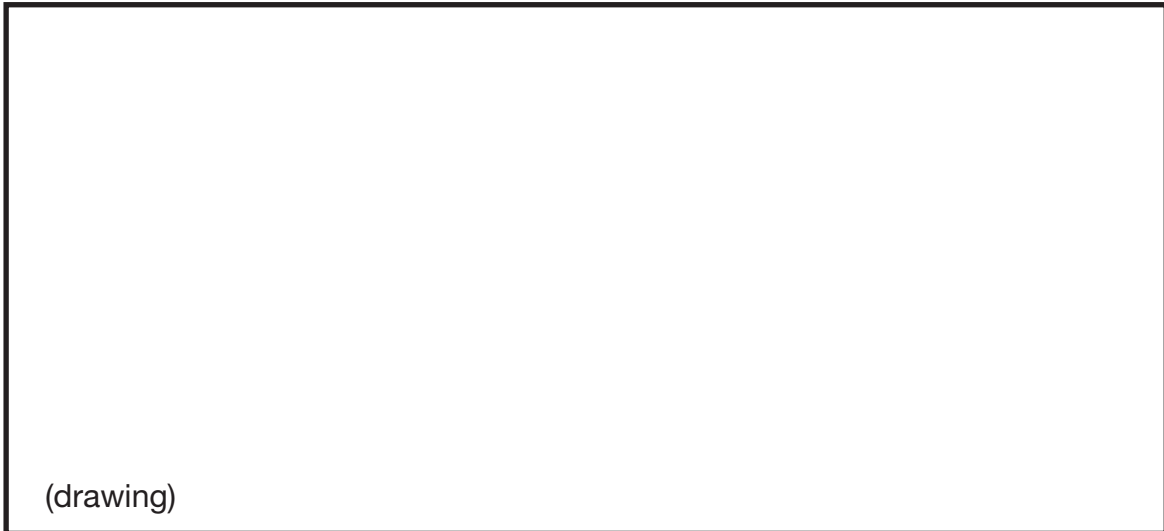
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



(drawing)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

### INVESTIGATION 2: BRASSICA SEEDS

Dear Parents,

In class, we are observing special fast-growing brassica plants. The family of brassica plants includes many plants that we enjoy at our table and see in the market.

Next time you go shopping with your child, please take this checklist and a pencil with you. Ask your child to check off any of the following brassica plants that he or she can find.

mustard

white cabbage

brussels sprouts

red cabbage

kohlrabi

collard greens

bok choy

kale

turnips

cauliflower

broccoli

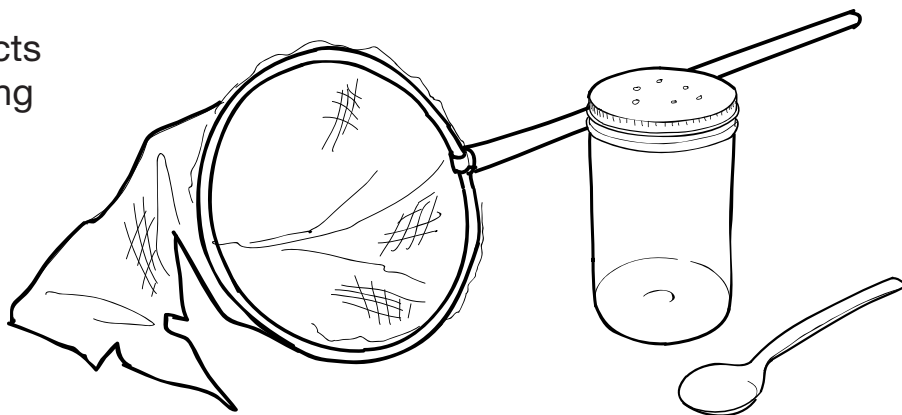
chard

# HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

## INVESTIGATION 3: MILKWEED BUGS

Insects are everywhere! Look outside on the ground, under water, and in the air. Here are some useful tools.

- a spoon for crawling insects
- a net for swimming or flying insects
- a jar to hold insects

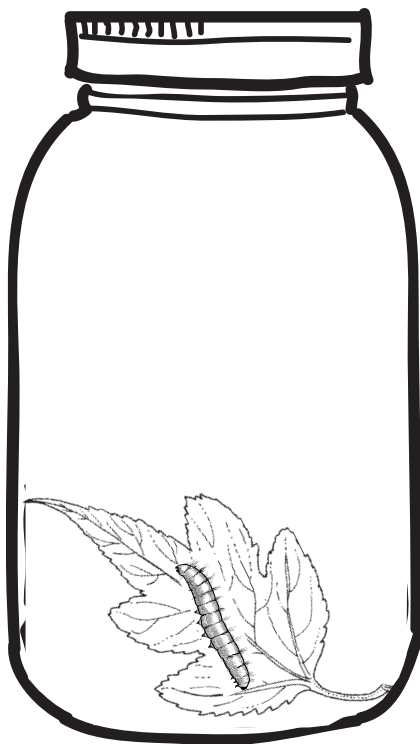


### ***Insects need space.***

Some insects will bother other kinds of insects. Keep them in separate jars.

### ***Insects need food.***

Most insects eat plants, and only a few kinds of plants. Most likely, the plant you found the insect on is the kind of plant it eats. Include a leaf or two from the plants that are closest to the insect.



### ***Insects need air.***

Cover the jar with cheesecloth or part of an old nylon stocking, or use a nail to make holes in the lid of the jar with an adult's help.

### ***Insects need water.***

Some insects get water from sucking the juice from seeds or plants. Some get it from the dew. Spray the inside of your jar with water, or add a slice of apple or orange.

Insects are fascinating to watch. However, they will not live for long in a jar. Plan to release them after a few hours or a day. If possible, put them back on the same plant you found them on, so they'll have the right food to eat.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION** .....  
**INVESTIGATION 4: SILKWORMS**

Insects (and their relatives, like spiders) sometimes leave evidence that they have been at work around your home and neighborhood. Take a field trip to look for evidence, such as holes in leaves, cocoons, webs, and the like. Make a list of your discoveries.

<b>Evidence of Insects</b>	<b>Evidence of other animals</b>

## **HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION**

### ***INVESTIGATION 5: BUTTERFLIES***

Round up a collection of craft materials, such as sticks, wire, paper cups, rubber bands, foam packing material, and foam rubber if you have some. Use the craft materials to make a model insect. You can choose to make a real insect or make up an insect of your own.

Remember to include all the parts that make an insect an insect. Will your insect fly or just crawl around?