

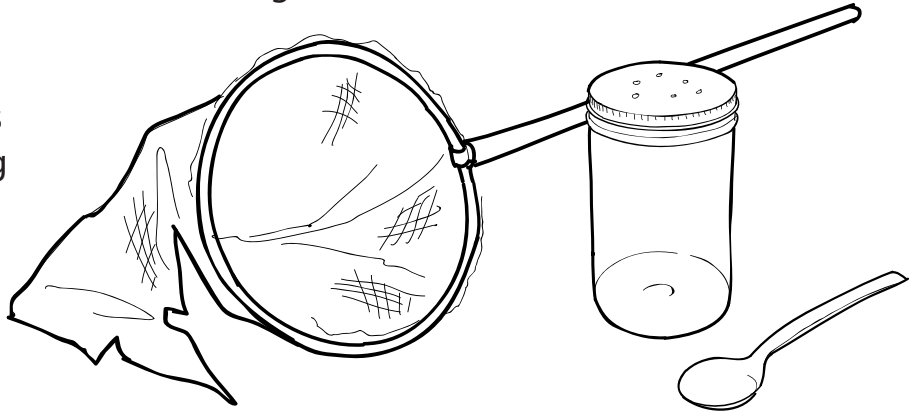
HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 3: Milkweed Bugs

SAFETY NOTE: While most insects are harmless, some can sting, and some can bite. Be sure to have an adult help you collect insects and put the holes in the jar lid.

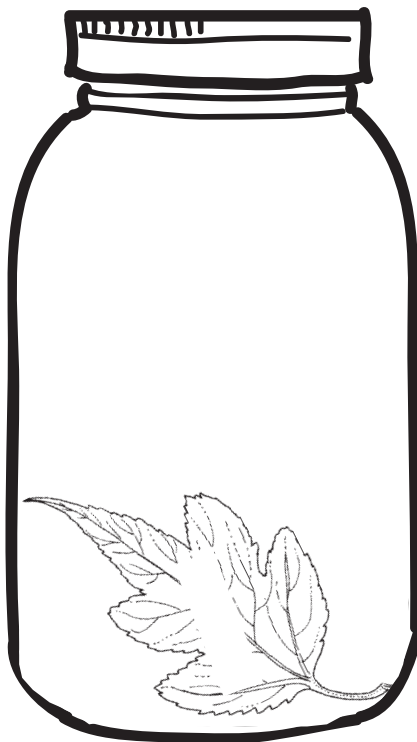
Insects are everywhere! Look outdoors on the ground, near water, and in the air. Here are some useful tools.

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



Insects need space and shelter. Some insects will bother other kinds of insects. Keep them in separate jars. This space will provide the insects with shelter.

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 on plants. 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.