

How do Insects Eat?

Gallery: MBBY

Course Name: "It's Alive"

Grade Level: K-1

Activity: Pre

Approximate Time Required: 30 min.

Title: "How do Insects Eat?"

Vocabulary:

Insect Names
Body parts
Head
Mouth

Objective:

Students will learn how insects eat, and explore some of the different ways insects use their mouths.

Materials Needed:

Pliers
Sponge
Syringe
Straw
Variety of food items:
fruit snacks, cheerios, M&M's, pretzels, jello, pudding, applesauce, juice

Procedure:

Ask students, What are some different ways people eat? Hands, forks/knives, chopsticks, etc
How do babies eat? Grown-ups?

Not all insects eat the same way either...

- *Some insects chew their food: (leaves, grass, bark)
- *Some insects eat mushy food: (vomit, decaying garbage, etc.)
- *Some insects suck their food: (blood, water, nectar, etc.)

Show the students the following utensils and explain that they are similar to the mouth parts of different insects.

- *Pliers': caterpillars, grasshoppers, ants, praying mantis
- *Syringe: mosquito
- *Straw: bees and butterflies
- *Sponge: flies

Provide students with the opportunity to use the utensils to eat a variety of different foods. Examples: fruit snacks, pretzels, M&M's, cheerios, jello pudding, juice, water.

Observations:

Evaluation:

Discuss which utensils worked best with which foods?

Modifications: (optional: Gifted, Special Education, ELL)

***Be cautious of classroom food allergies

Brainstorm alternatives and provide scientific names for different types of insect mouth parts. Ex.

Proboscis, Mandible, Stylet, Labellum

Georgia Standards:

SKCS1, SKCS6, SKL2

Source: <http://iitc.tamu.edu/lessons/lesson47.html>