



# Unique Insects



## VA:Cr1.1.2a

Brainstorm collaboratively multiple approaches to an art or design problem.

## VA:Cr1.2.2a

Make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

## VA:Cr2.2.2a

Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces.

## Objectives

*Students will...*

- Learn insect facts
- Identify the three body parts of an insect
- Design an insect on a leaf
- Incorporate the elements of art line, shape, and color
- Apply drawing and watercolor painting techniques

## Introduction

We sometimes think of insects as pests; however, they are important to our environment and can be quite beautiful. There are many different types of insects, and they come in various shapes, sizes, and colors. Insects are invertebrates that do not have a backbone but rather an exoskeleton – a hard shell on the outside of the body. They are also cold-blooded, meaning their body temperature changes with the temperature of the air around them. Insects have three body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. They also have two antennae and six legs. In this lesson, students will explore science concepts by designing their own unique insect on a leaf.



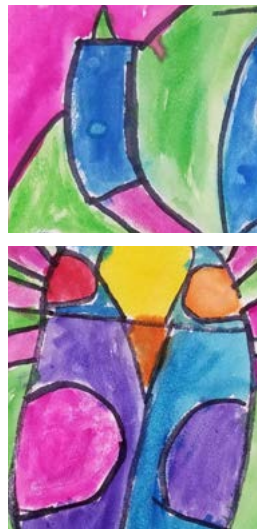


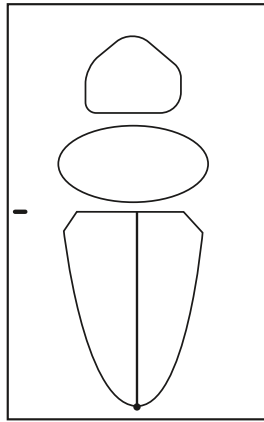
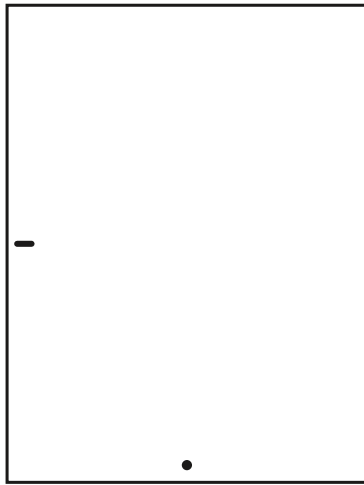
# Instructions

1. Introduce the class to insects, describing their environment and providing fun facts.
2. Talk about the three main parts of an insect: head, thorax, and abdomen.
3. Display images of insects that vary in color, size, and shape, and help students identify the three main parts, as well as legs and wings.

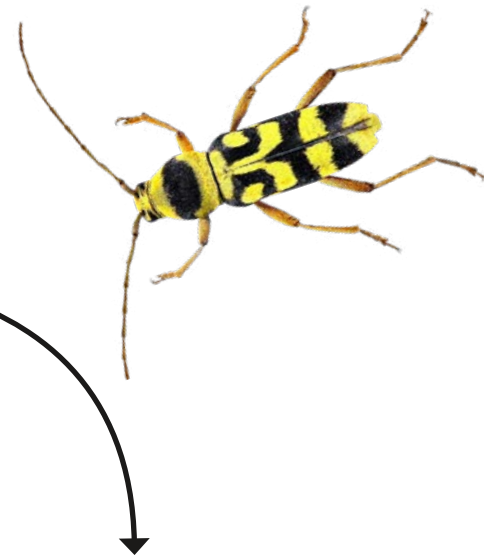


4. Then review lines and shapes (geometric and organic) with students. Start by drawing lines on the board, and then call on students to name them. Do the same for shapes, or have students start by calling out shapes and then draw each one on the board. Next, draw a few organic shapes on the board and explain that they do not have names as geometric shapes do. Leave all lines and shapes on the board for students to refer to.
5. Have students identify the elements of art found in the insect images you have displayed, including lines, shapes, and color.

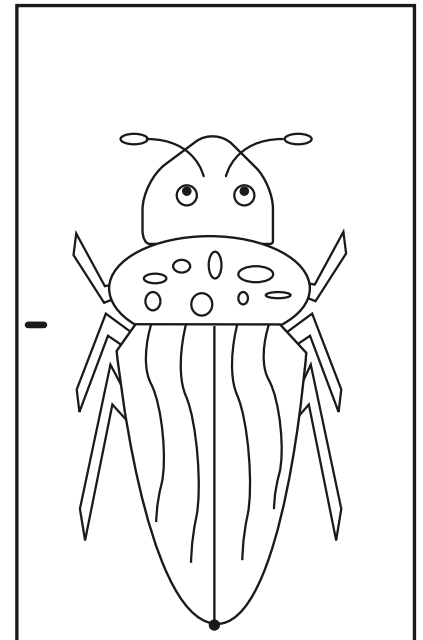
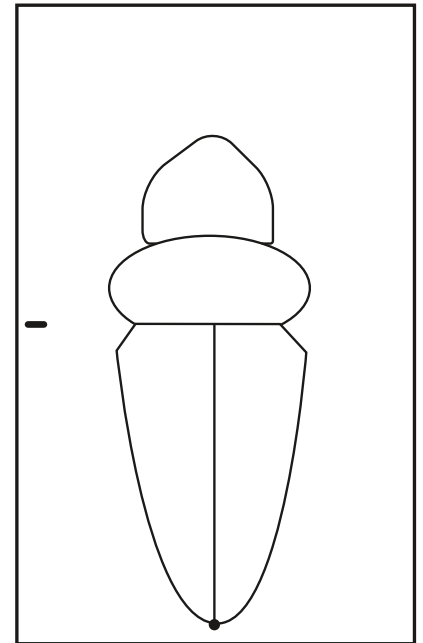




step 6



6. Then demonstrate how to use shapes and lines to draw a unique insect on a leaf:
  - a. Hold a 12" x 18" piece of paper vertically.
  - b. Find the middle of the paper and draw a horizontal line (of any type) that is a little longer than the length of your finger.
  - c. Move your pencil toward the bottom of the paper and place a dot there. (This step will help students draw their first shape large, which will guide the rest of their drawing.) Refer to the lines drawn on the board, and pick a line or design your own to use for the next step.
  - d. Draw the chosen line from your horizontal line to the dot forming the abdomen first.
  - e. Next, draw a geometric or organic shape for the thorax and then the head.
  - f. Create the legs, stating they should start on the thorax and not at the head. Discuss the size of the legs for painting and aesthetic purposes.
  - g. Add the details on the face, eyes, mouth, and antennae.
  - h. Use a few lines and shapes to form patterns for unique details on the body.
  - i. Draw a leaf around the insect and any other details needed to complete the drawing. When drawing the leaf, be sure to explain how to avoid drawing over the legs. Stop drawing at the shape that's in the way, and then continue on the other side of it to avoid overlapping lines.
7. After you've drawn a few large examples, let students design their own. Remind students that their insects should have three body parts, as well as six legs and two antennae.
8. After students have drawn their insects, demonstrate how to outline them with a permanent marker.
9. Then, demonstrate the proper use of watercolor paints, brush control, and color placement so students can add color to their unique insects.
10. Optional: Embellish insects by gluing on sequins once the paint has dried.



## Variations

- Create the outline of your insects using a crayon- and watercolor-resist technique.
- Use crayons or oil pastels to complete your insects.
- For older students, use black paper, a glue outline, pastels or oil pastels for coloring.



## Materials list:

- 12" x 18" Pacon® Watercolor Paper (972961)
- Sharpie® Fine-point Black Marker [9726841(A)]
- PRANG® Watercolor Set (9700449)

## Additional Optional Materials:

- Metallic Sequins [0500433(J)]
- Elmer's® Glue (1100269)

