

Insect Camouflage Challenge



Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Zoo Educational Lesson: Insect Camouflage*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJ6bqMNwleI>



Skills

- Problem Solving
- Engineering



NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations



Experience

- Time varies
- 1 or more people

Insects are an essential and major part of every ecosystem. They fill many roles, such as breaking down decaying organic material, pollinating fruits and vegetables, and are a source of food to many animals. Many insects have camouflage that helps them hide from predators. This activity explores different types of camouflage and provides an opportunity to plan and implement a camouflage insect investigation!



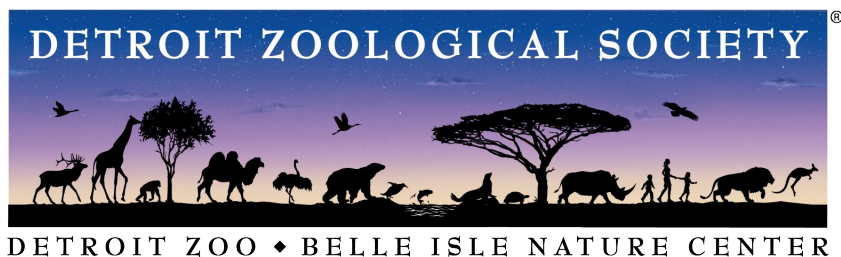
Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

Insects are often underappreciated and overlooked. In addition to being an essential part of ecosystems and providing countless benefits to humankind, insects are important because they are living creatures. By learning more about their amazing adaptations, characteristics and behaviors, we can help protect them and ensure they continue to do their essential jobs..



Take Action

If you come across an insect, take care not to step on him or her, they have important work to do. If there is an insect someplace you would rather it not be, like in your house, use a cup and a piece of paper to carefully move the insect outside or to another space.



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Tools

Found materials from around your home

1 or more people

Directions

Find a “habitat”

- Find a space in or near your home to be the habitat for your insect.
- What is in the space? What colors or patterns are already there?

Choose your camouflage

- Decide which type of camouflage you will use to hide your insect
 - Blending - the colors of the insect match the colors of their habitat.
 - Patterns - the stripes, spots or other colors of the insect make it hard to see where their body starts and stops.
 - Disguise - the insect looks just like something in their habitat, allowing them to blend in.
 - Mimicry - the insect looks like something that is dangerous or that a predator would not want to try and eat.

Design your insect

- Using materials found in your home, design your insect.
- Place him or her in the habitat you chose.
- Wait and see how long it takes someone who lives with you to notice your insect!

Notes - You could try multiple types of camouflage on the same insect design. For another challenge, try reversing the process, find an object and design a habitat that allows the chosen object to completely blend in.

For more information about insects, visit: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-are-there-so-many-insects-murry-gans>

To see some designs that have been created, watch this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r44b2AQXOss>

