White County Mini 4-H

Creepy Crawlies

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Extension

4-H GROWS HERE

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Mini 4-H

Mini 4-H Project Requirements

- Kindergarten: Exhibit a 22" x 28" stiff-backed horizontal poster, covered in clear plastic, which describes an activity you completed from this curriculum.

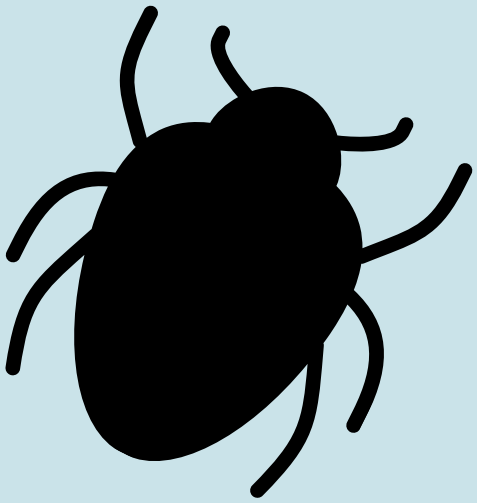
- 1st and 2nd Grade: Exhibit a display based on one activity from this curriculum. Display is to be covered in clear plastic.

Activity #1
What Makes an Insect an Insect?

Insects have three body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. They also have six legs, an exoskeleton, compound eyes, and one pair of antennae.

Insects are the most diverse group of animals on the planet! There are more than 6 million different types of insects! In this activity, learn what characteristics insects have and explore how they live.

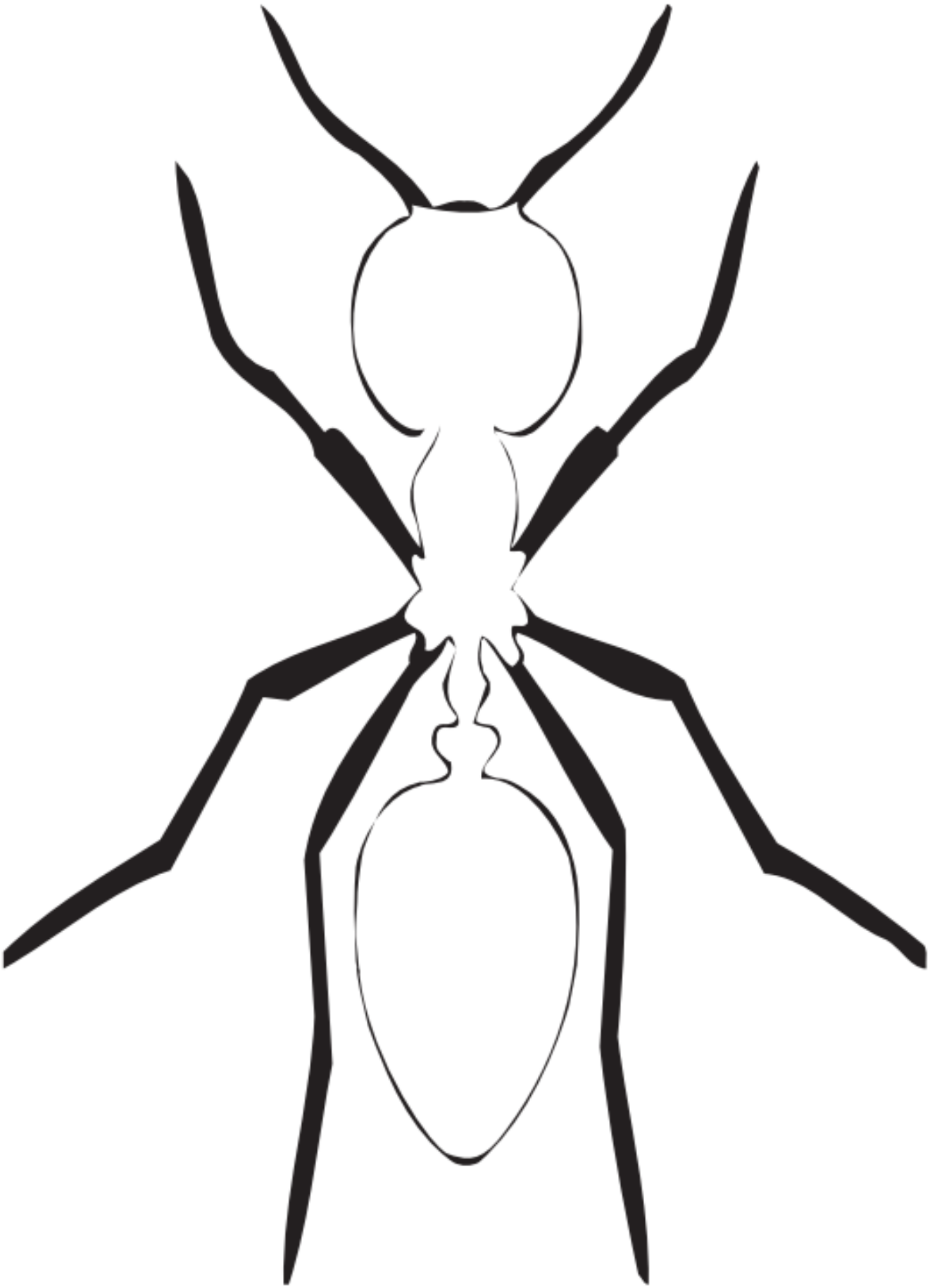
Materials: Body Parts sheet, crayons or markers



Steps:

1. Color the insect on the Body Parts Sheet.
2. Use crayons or a marker to label HEAD, THORAX, and ABDOMEN. You can also label antennae and legs if you would like.
3. Head outside and take a look at what insects you see! Pay close attention to what they are doing. How do they use their body parts to find food or shelter?

Insect Body Parts Activity Page



Activity #2
What about Spiders?

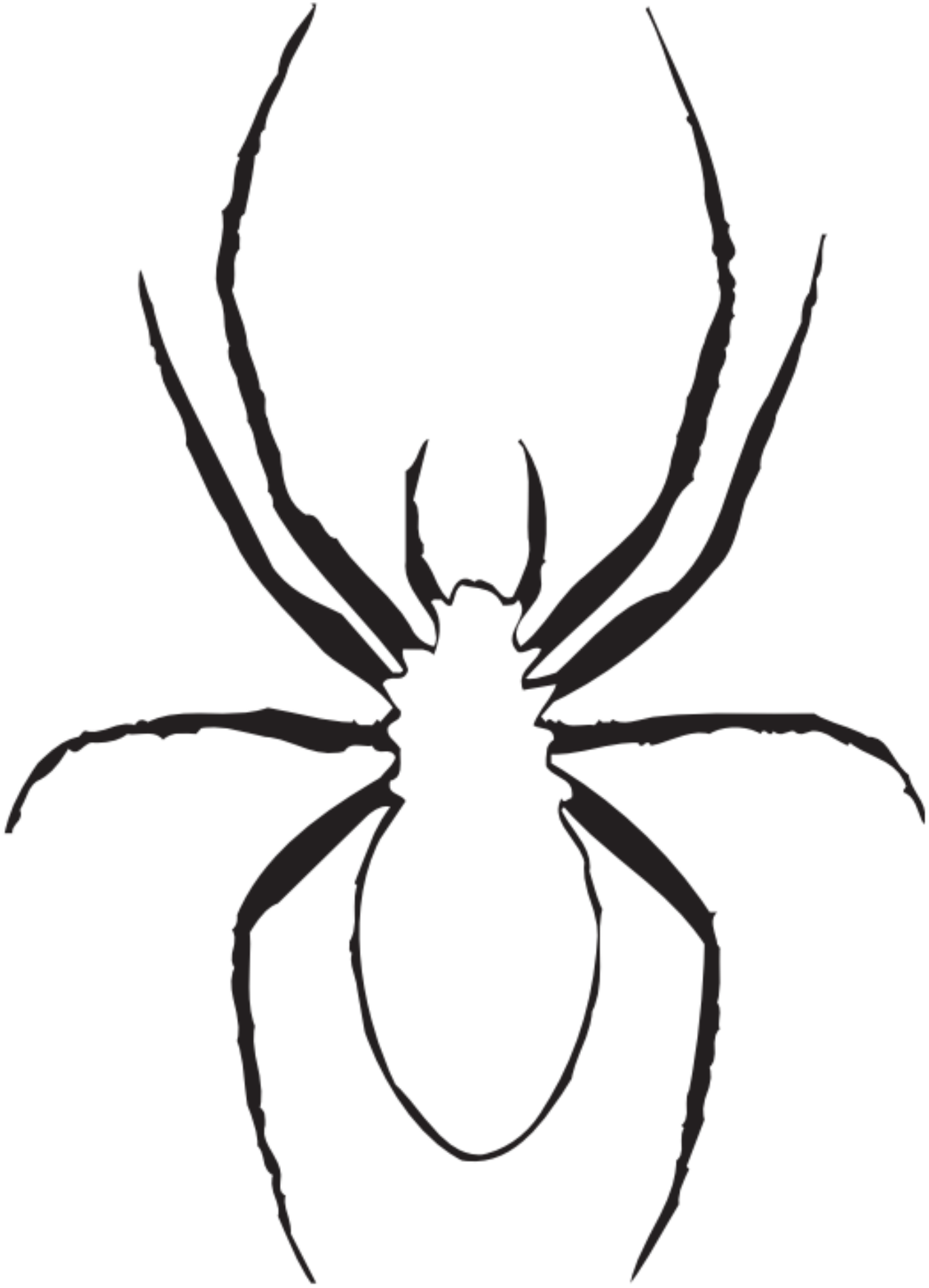
Are spiders insects? No! They have two body parts and eight legs, which makes them arachnids! Spiders are important members of any ecosystem! They eat insects that can be pests and they keep diseases from spreading.

Materials: Spider parts sheet, crayons or markers

Steps:

1. Color the spider on the spider parts sheet.
2. Use a crayon or marker to label the spider's body parts: CEPHALOTHORAX and ABDOMEN.
3. Head outside to find some spiderwebs. Do not touch as they are delicate.

Spider Parts Activity Page



Activity #3
Symmetry Skills

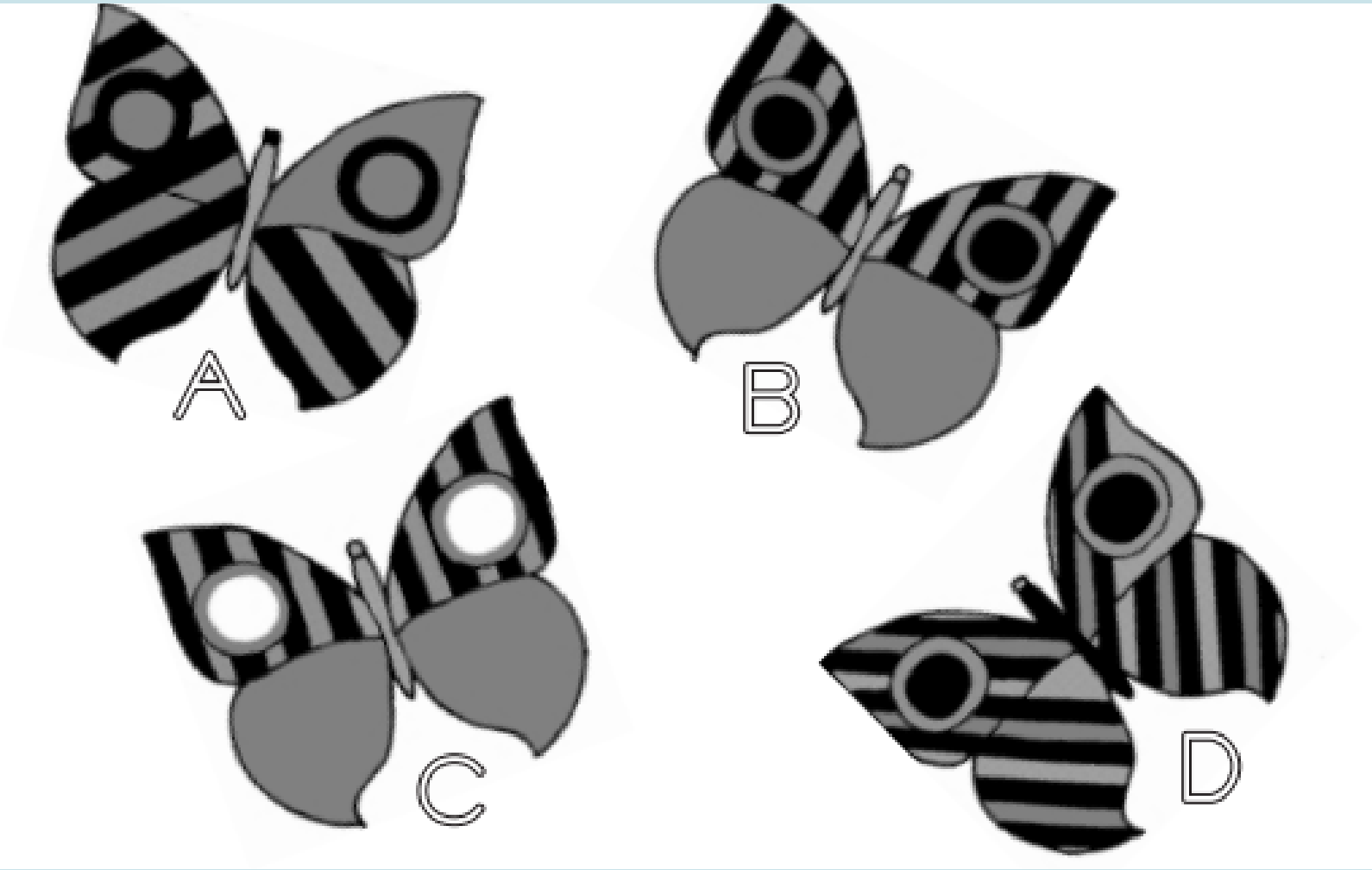
Symmetry means that both things are the same on each side. Think of yourself, you have two eyes, two arms, and two legs. If you (pretend) split into two halves, both would almost be the same! Insects are symmetrical.

Materials: photos of symmetrical insects, cardboard, scissors, round shaped object to trace, pencil or straw

Steps:

1. Take a look at the photos of insects to try to figure out if they are symmetrical or not.
2. Why are insects symmetrical? Does this help them to survive in the wild?
3. Make two wheels out of cardboard (with an adult's help). Make one small and one large.
4. Use a pencil or straw to make an axle to connect the wheels. What happens with one small and one large? Do the wheels move straight or in a circle?

Activity #3
Symmetry Skills



Which of these butterflies have symmetry?

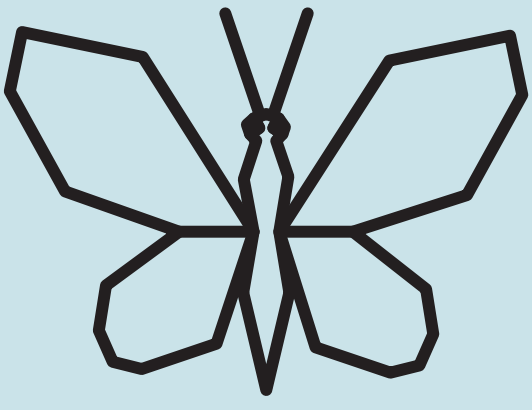
Activity #4
Create a Butterfly!

In this activity, you will get creative by designing your own butterfly! Butterflies are often thought of as some of the most beautiful insects, and they are often very colorful!

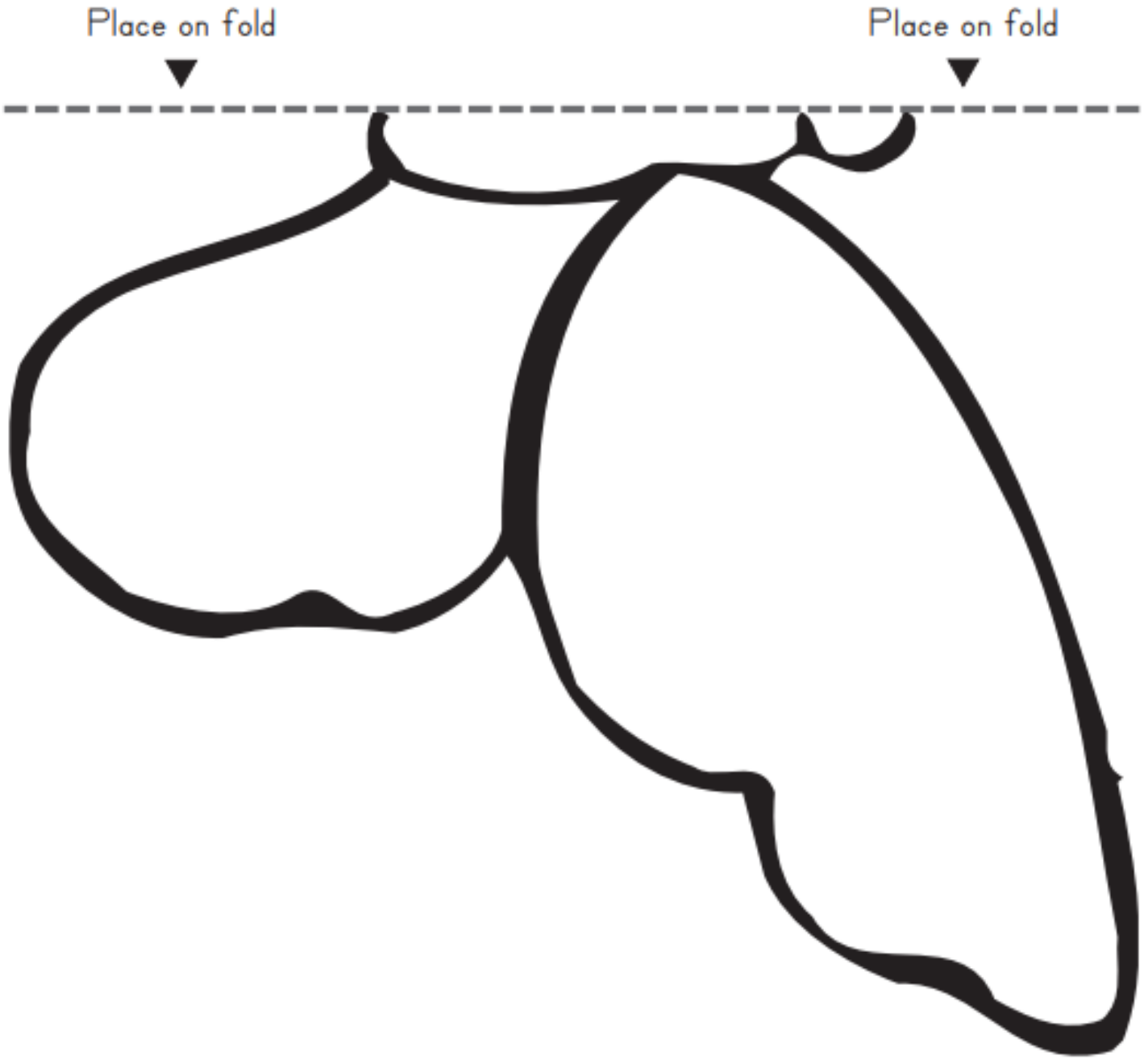
Materials: colored construction paper, Butterfly Symmetry Sheet, scissors, pipe cleaners, paint, scotch tape

Steps:

1. Fold construction paper in half 'hamburger style'.
2. Cut the Butterfly Symmetry Sheet along the dotted line. Place it on top of your folded construction paper.
3. Cut the butterfly shape out. Be sure not to cut along the fold where the body of the butterfly is.
4. Unfold your paper! There should be a butterfly shaped piece of paper!
5. Add a few dots of paint on one butterfly wing. What happens when you carefully press both wings together?
6. Finish off your butterfly with some pipe cleaner antennae and legs!



Butterfly Symmetry Activity Page



Activity #5
Hide and Seek

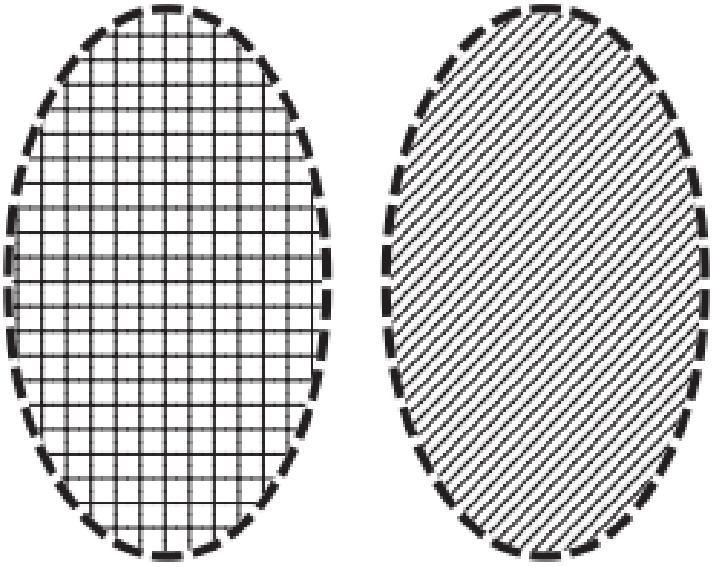
In the wild, animals have to hide so that they stay safe. One way that they are harder to find is by using their CAMOUFLAGE. This means that their bodies look like their surroundings.

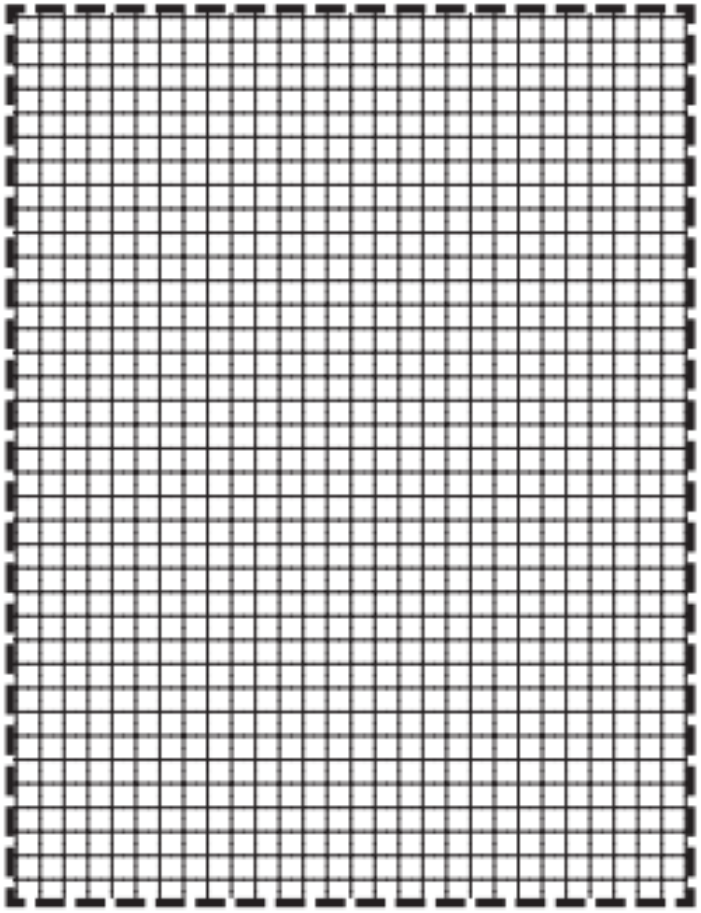
Materials: Hide and Seek Sheet, Markers or crayons, scissors, white paper

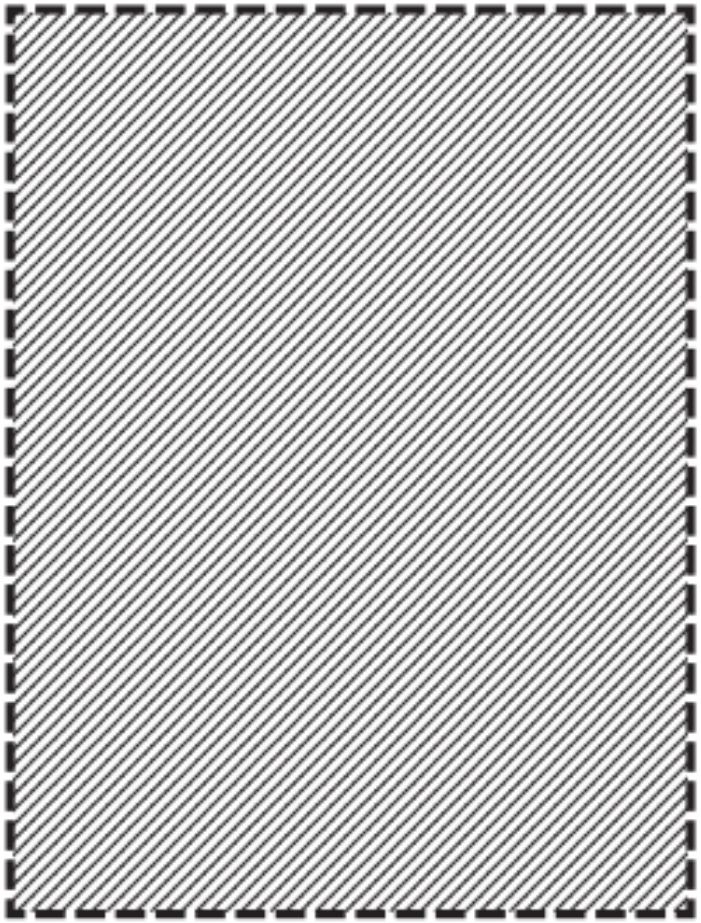
Steps:

1. Cut along the dotted lines. The ovals represent insects and the squares represent their hiding places.
2. Lay each insect on the hiding places one by one. Which hiding place should each insect use to stay hidden? Why?
3. Trace the shape of one of the insects and one of the hiding places onto a piece of white paper to create your own insect and hiding place! Use crayons or markers to create some camouflage of your own!

Bug Hide and Seek Activity Page







Additional Resources

Indiana 4-H Mini Bugs Curriculum

Purdue University Entomology Department

All About Spiders- San Diego Zoo