MOSS ROCK FESTIVAL 2026

NATURE | SCIENCE + ART

2026 PLANET PROJECT

SMALL WONDERS | BIG IMPACT

INSECTS: ABOVE, BELOW & ALL AROUND

REGISTRATION FORM: Due by **SEPTEMBER 15**

PROJECT DETAILS: Due by **OCTOBER 15**

INSTALL SCULPTURE: NOVEMBER 4-6

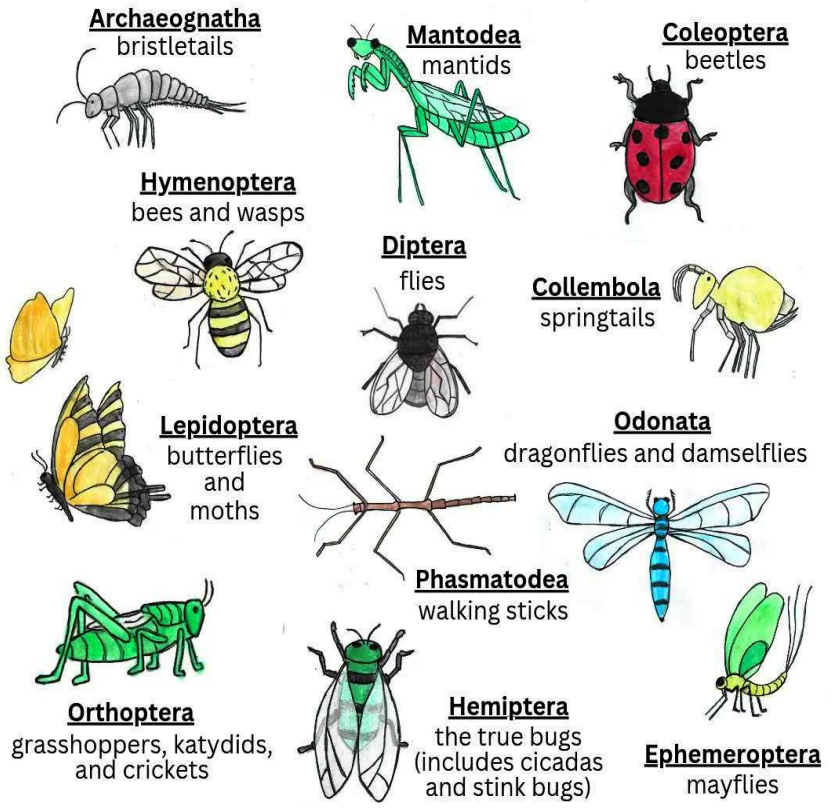
DEINSTALL SCULPTURE: NOVEMBER 9

FESTIVAL DATES: NOVEMBER 7-8

AL 4H Entemology Project © 2020 Vilbas, Margus. Getty Images.

INSECTS represent the most diverse group of animals. They comprise more than half of all animal species with over a million described species worldwide. Insects are invertebrates, which means they have an exoskeleton rather than a spine. The class Insecta is also the largest class of the invertebrate Phylum Arthropoda. Other Arthropoda classes are Arachnids (spiders, scorpions, ticks), Myriapods (centipedes, millipedes, etc.), and Crustaceans (crabs, lobsters, shrimp, pill bugs). **The distinguishing characteristics of Insects include a three-part body (head, thorax, and abdomen), six jointed legs in three pairs (hexapod), compound eyes, and almost all insects have a pair of antennae.**[1-2]

INSECT ORDERS



All About Insects. © 2022 Brandy Nicole

The Insecta Class of the Phylum Arthropoda consists of primarily 30 recognized Orders under 2 Subclasses. [3-4]

5 Most Common Insect Orders:

Coleoptera (Beetles)
Lepidoptera (Butterflies & Moths)
Hymenoptera (Ants, Bees, Wasps)
Diptera (True Flies)
Hemiptera (True Bugs)

INSECT HABITATS

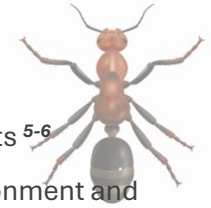
© inspiremyplay

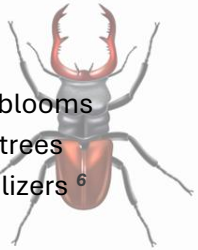
Insects live in nearly every terrestrial and aquatic environment on Earth: [2]

Underground
Trees & Plants
Fresh & Marine Water
Aerial (in the air)
Extreme environments
Manmade habitats

PURPOSE & CONSERVATION

SEE → APPRECIATE → UNDERSTAND → PROTECT





INSECTS ARE ALL AROUND US, SOME WE CAN SEE AND SOME WE CANNOT:

- **ABOVE -** butterflies, dragonflies, moths, bees, true flies
- **BELOW -** ants, yellowjackets, beetles, mining bees, gnats
- **ALL AROUND -** aquatic ecosystems, extreme environements, manmade environments [5-6]

Even though we consider some insects pests, they are all intrinsic wonders of our environment and play a vital roll in the health of the earth's ecosystems and our agricultural systems through indispensable biological services.

VITAL BIOLOGICAL SERVICES of INSECTS:

- **POLLINATE** 75-85% of all flowering plants + 35% of global food crops
- **CONTRIBUTE TO SOIL** health through
  - Decomposition - break down dead plants and animals
  - Aeration - add air, water, and nutrients
  - Fertilization – through their waste, known as frass
  - Cycle nutrients and help maintain the bance of natural ecosystems
- **PROVIDE FOOD** for other animal species
- **MAINTAIN BALANCE** of natural ecosystems [6]

Insects may be small, but they are ecological powerhouses; essential, ancient, and extraordinary components of life on earth. Their role in the living world is enormous. Insects are foundational to biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems worldwide. However, current populations are in decline at an alarming rate. They are too beautiful to be lost; they are too important to be lost. [6-7]

WHAT CAN WE DO:

- Protect forests, wetlands, streams, and watersheds
- Leave portions of land undisturbed for insect larvae and ground-nesting species
- Incorporate native plants into yards, gardens, farms, and community landscapes
- Plant a diversity of native flowering plants
- Provide flowers throughout the growing season, including early-, mid-, and late-season blooms
- Protect important insect host plants such as Milkweed, Pokeweed, Paw-paw & Caltapa trees
- Reduce unnecessary use of chemicals such as pesticide, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers [6]

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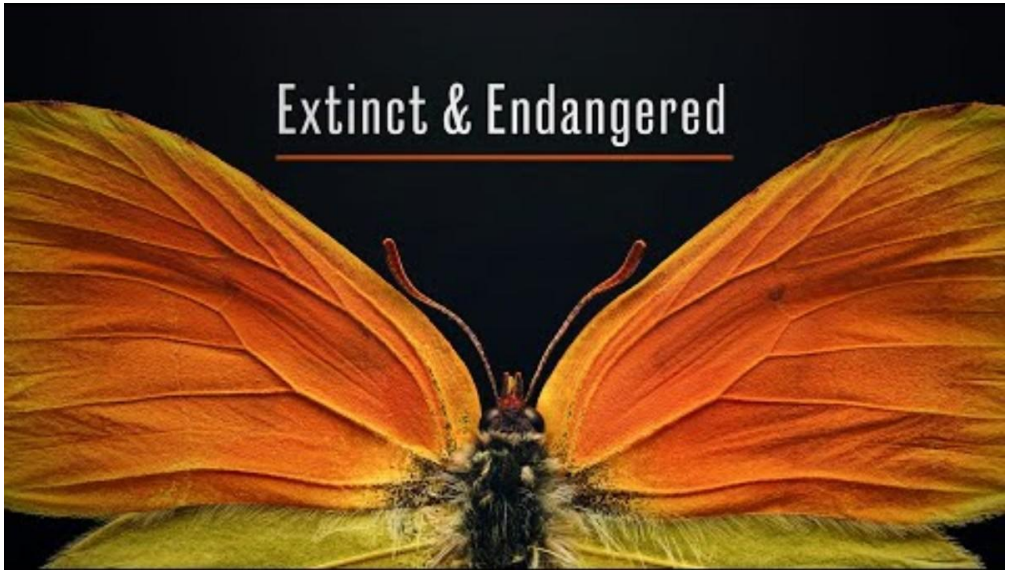


VIDEO LINK: EXTINCT & ENDANGERED - Levon Biss + American Museum of Natural History

In collaboration with scientists at the American Museum of Natural History, Leon Biss selected specimens from the Museum's world-class research collection to serve as representatives of insect decline. Photographed using special lenses capturing microscopic detail, 40 Insects were selected for their conservation status, with many critically endangered. The project aims to educate the public on the current crisis in insect decline and biodiversity loss, and to inspire future generations on the beauty and importance of the insect world.

Explore each featured insect in greater detail:
extinctandendangered.com
levonbiss.com/extinct-endangered

VIDEO LINK: LOOK UP! THE BILLION BUG HIGHWAY YOU CAN'T SEE

Researchers have discovered that the air above us contains a vast, largely invisible population of insects, spiders, and other tiny animals moving through the atmosphere. What appears to be empty sky is actually a kind of aerial highway, carrying enormous numbers of creatures across the landscape for biological purposes like migration, mating, food, better environmental conditions, and places to establish new populations. Although it is a gamble, insects that make an aerial journey are following a migratory pattern of their species or in search of better opportunities.

NPR Morning Edition, July 15, 2010
Script: Robert Krulwich
Animation: Benjamin Arthur

2026 PLANET PROJECT

OBJECTIVES | INSTRUCTIONS | CONSIDERATIONS

- **SMALL WONDERS | BIG IMPACT | Insects: Above, Below, & All Around**

  This year's sculpture project invites children to explore the fascinating world of insects through art, imagination, and recycled materials. Children will transform carboard and/or other recycled materials into larger-than-life insects inspired by a species of their choosing. The finished sculptures will become a collective installation celebrating the small creatures that have a big impact on our natural world. Festival visitors will have a chance to explore the children's "giant insect world" of larger-than-life beetles, butterflies, bees, dragonflies, moths, mantises, and other fantastic insects. Through the process of researching and choosing an insect for their project, the children will discover the important roles insects play in the health and balance of all of earth's ecosystems. For an added connection to the insects they study, focusing specifically on insects of Alabama and the Southeastern region of the US could be beneficial.

- **PARAMETERS -**

  > Freestanding
  > Stationary or kinetic
  > Large scale - GO BIG! - not limited to, but *no smaller than* 48"H x 24"W x 24"D

- **FRAME/BASE -** Presentation and stability must be considered in the design stage. The sculpture should be able to stand alone or include an appropriate substrate or base. MRF has only a few wood risers, no pedestals. Discuss with the Arts Ed. Coordinator by October 15th if your class's sculpture will need a riser or if you have other presentation concerns.

- **CONTENT MATERIALS - recycled cardboard boxes and tubes -** and/or paper waste: cartons, cups, packaging paper, paper bags, newspaper, junk mail, magazines, envelopes, coffee filters, tissue paper, etc.; yard waste: tree limbs, vines, leaves, wood, seashells, etc,; plastic waste: bottles, containers, straws, bottle caps, plastic bags, bubble wrap, plastic tablecloths, etc.; other materials: cans, wire hangers, wire mesh, netting, fabric, felt, foam, sponge, push pins, clothes pins, sequins, paint, markers, crayons, etc.

- **CONSTRUCTION METHODS & APPROACHES**

  > Laminating cardboard for building 3D forms
  > Layering and repeating materials for building and embellishing 3D forms
  > Additive Construction with collected recyclables and/or natural and other materials

- **ATTACHMENT & ADHESIVES -** various types of glue, wire, pipe cleaners, zip ties, twist-ties, tape, twine, yarn, rope, Velcro, nuts/bolts, rivets, etc.

Questions, advice, help with snags - contact the Arts Ed Coordinator, Jess Marie Walker, at 205-601-6166 or arted@findartbirmingham.com

CONTEMPORARY INSECT SCULPTURES

STUDIO ROOF + EDEN PROJECT

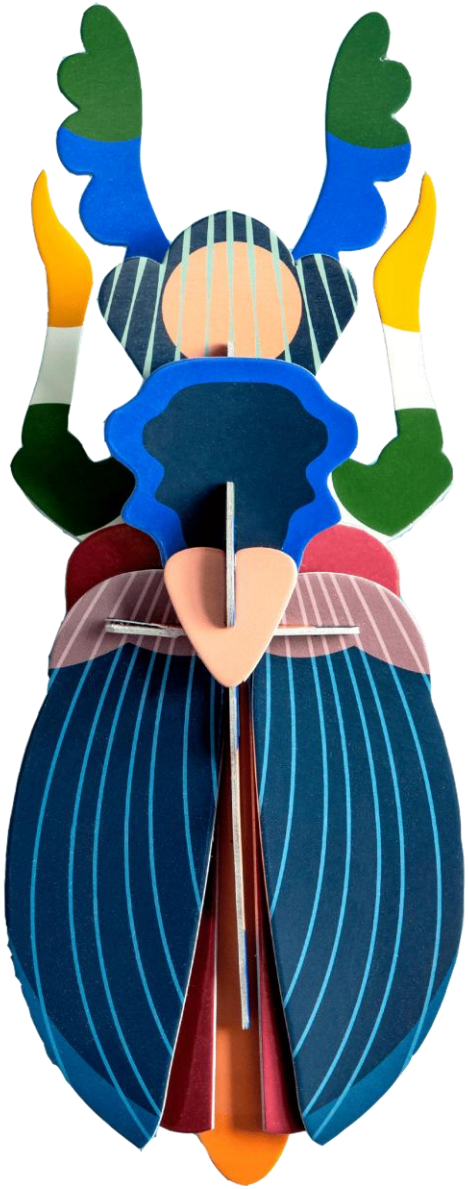
CONTEMPORAY INSECT SCULPTURES

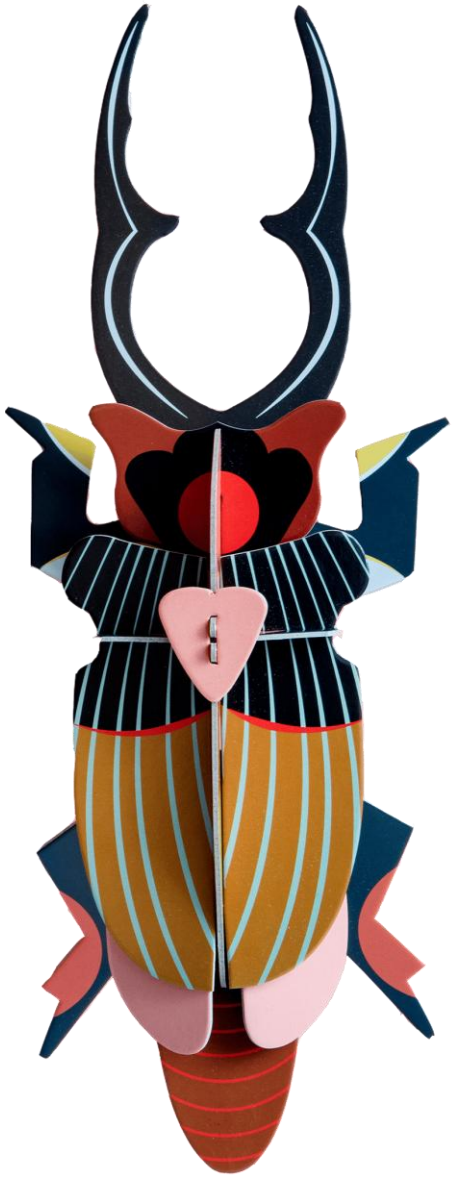
ROBERT BRADFORD

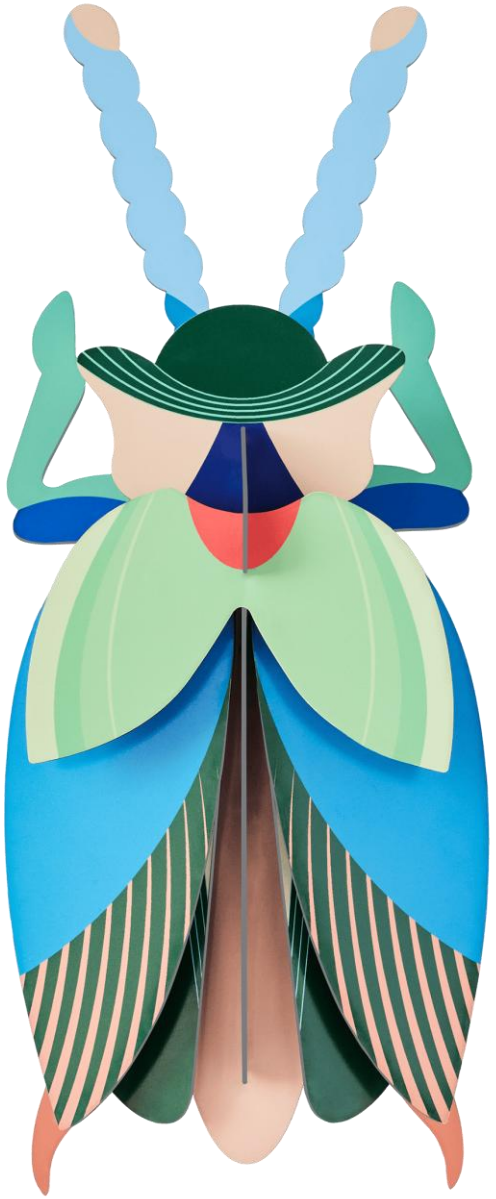
CONTEMPORARY INSECT SCULPTURES

Clockwise from top: SMITHSONIAN GARDENS – DAVID ROGERS – CHRITOPHER MADDEN – GREG OLIJNYK

CONTEMPORAY CARDBOARD SCULPTURES







STUDIO ROOF

CONTEMPORAY CARDBOARD SCULPTURES

ANN WEBER

CONTEMPORARY CARDBOARD SCULPTURES

TOBIAS HORROCKS | FOLD THEORY

ART REFERENCES & MORE

STUDIO ROOF - Eden Project Collaboration, Cornwall, UK, 2024
studioroof.com/collaborations/eden-project

ROBERT BRADFORD - Bombus the Giant Bee, Eden Project, Cornwall, UK v. 2001-2 & 2017
edenproject.com/bombus-the-giant-bee

SMITHSONIAN GARDENS - Habitat Exhibit, Bug B&B, 2019
gardens.si.edu/exhibitions/habitat/bug-bb

DAVID ROGERS – Big Bugs & Pollinators, 1994-Present
davidrogersbigbugs.com/the-big-bugs

CHRISTOPHER MADDEN - Metamorphosis (from pie containers to insect larvae), 2021
christophermadden.art/metamorphosis

GREG OLIJNYK - #31 Ants In Taua Braccae, 2024
studioroof.com/butterflies

STUDIO ROOF - Beetles & Butterflies, 2025-2026
studioroof.com/beetles & studioroof.com/butterflies

ANN WEBER - woven cardboard sculpture
annwebersculpture.com
thisiscolossal.com/ann-weber-let-the-sunshine-in

TOBIAS HORROCKS | FOLD THEORY - cardboard architectural design forms
foldtheory.com/design-media-in-australia-installation

LEVON BISS - Extinct & Endangered: Insects in Perel, 2026
levonbiss.com
amnh.org/extinct-endangered-insects
youtube.com/@AmericanMuseumofNaturalHistory/Levon-Biss-Extinct-Endangered

CHRISTOPHER MARLEY – Macrocosm | Museum Aesthetica, 2016
christophermarley.com
youtube.com/@OPB/Christopher-Marley

Inspiration / Tutorials & More Info

AIDAN MILLER - Instructables: How to Make a Layered Cardboard Sculpture of Almost Anything, 2021
instructables.com/How-to-Make-a-Layered-Cardboard-Sculpture

Insects & Creative ReUse Art - Carla Brown, 2020
trashmagination.com/insects-and-creative-reuse-art

Abstract Cardboard Sculpture Project – Agnes Hsu, 2018
hellowonderful.co/giant-cardboard-abstract-sculptures

SCOTT WALROTH - student recycled materials sculpture
scottwalroth.weebly.com/sculpture-recycled-materials

LAURENCE VALLIERES - cardboard animal sculpture
upcyclethat.com/cardboard-animal-sculptures
lauvallieres.com

FOLD THEORY - Tobias Horrocks Architectural Studio
foldtheory.com

JOSH GLUCKSTEIN - recycled cardboard sculpture
joshgluckstein.com/gallery

PORKCHOP, BRADLEY HOFFER, & JASON STUMPF - The Cardboard Art Show, 2023
youtube.com/@AsburyParkTV/the-carboard-art-show

Out-of-the-Box Sculpture: 5 Amazing Cardboard Artists
planetpaper.com/5-amazing-cardboard-artists

Henk Loorbach - Litterbugs
mossandfog.com/the-trash-that-outlives-the-bug
henkloorbach.nl/work/litterbugs

Bibliography & Resources

1) **Wikipedia - Insect & Arthropod**
wikipedia.org/Insect
wikipedia.org/Arthropod

2) **Insect Distribution and Abundance**
britannica.com/insect-distribution-and-abundance

3) **Classification of Insects**
royensoc.co.uk/classification-of-insects

4) **Chart of the Orders of Insects**
espacepourlavie.ca/chart-orders-insects

5) **The backbone of our ecosystem - without a backbone**
macphailwoods.org/nature-education/insects

6) **Discovering Alabama - Insect Wonder (video)**
youtube.com/DiscoveringAlabama/Insect-Wonder

7) **Extinct & Endangered: Insects in Peril**
amnh.org/extinct-and-endangered-insects-video

Look Up! The Billion-Bug Highway You Can't See
npr.org/morning-edition/2010/07-15/Look-Up

The Worlds Most Interesting Insects
smithsonianmag.com/most-interesting-insects

Explore Insect - Smithsonian Education
si.edu/spotlight/buginfo

50 Most Beautiful Insects
boredpanda.com/cool-interesting-bugs

Strange Insects (video)
youtube.com/MyWildBackyard/Strange-Insects

The Largest Insects in Alabama & Where They Lurk
a-z-animals.com/largest-insects-in-alabama

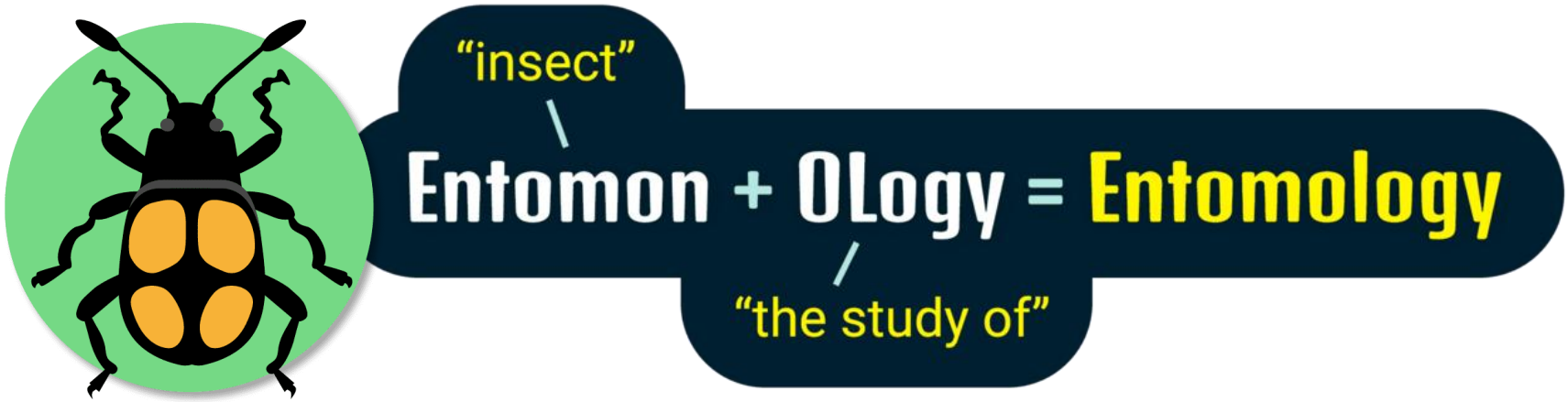
Insects of Alabama
encyclopediaofalabama.org/insects-of-alabama

Encyclopedia of Alabama - Fauna and Flora
encyclopediaofalabama.org/fauna-of-alabama

AL 4-H Entomology Project: Studying Insects & Developing Your Own Insect Collection
www.aces.edu/4-H-Entomology-Project-2025.pdf

MSU 4-H Introduction to Entomology
extension.msstate.edu/4-H-Intro-to-Entomolgy.pdf

Insect Identification Resources:
- uga.edu/insect-id-guide-southeastern-us
- bugguide.net/about-guide
- insectidentification.org/Alabama



Entomology is the study of insects - a huge group of six-legged animals. Insects existed hundreds of millions of years before the first dinosaurs. And millions of insect species are alive today!

amnh.org/explore/ology/entomology