Bug Wall

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Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning

Activity Name: Bug Wall

Ages: 6-12

Activity Level: low

Length of time: 20-40

Number of Participants: 10

Concept: Encourage participants to explore the world of bugs in their area.

Materials Required: Bug boxes and magnifying glasses (one per participant), reference books or ID cards for bugs and spiders, index cards (1-2 per participant)

Introduction: Tell participants that they are going to be entomologists together and build a bug wall of information to share all they have found.

Methods: Participants are encouraged to go "bug/spider hunting" and to secure a specimen in their bug box. Next they identify their finding (they might need some assistance with this). Now they create their contribution to the bug wall using their index card. On the blank side they sketch and label their bug/spider. On the lined side of their index card they write its name and two or more facts about this specimen from the reference book (or helper, resource person, or facts they already knew).

Display all the index cards in a central location (on a board or large sheet of paper) so everyone can see and read about what was found. Do a debrief with the group asking everyone to name their species and tell their facts about it.

Tips for Teachers:
•With a mixed group try to pair younger and older participants, or make sure a younger participant is working with a leader as

there is quite a bit of reading and writing in this activity.
- This activity is benefitted by having a resource person of help with identifying species and with extra knowledge and enthusiasm for the topic!

Background facts and information:
- In most forest settings there will be species from three family groups: spiders, crustaceans (wood bugs and centipedes) and insects (beetles, flies, butterflies, wasps, etc.)
- You might find different species in different times of their life cycles (i.e. finding maggots (usually fly larvae) or caterpillars (larva form of moths or butterflies).