**INSECTS!!**

Who likes BUGS??? Creepy, crawly, BUGS???? Bugs are very interesting little critters and they plan an important role in our world! BUGS have another name and that is INSECTS! Insects make up the largest group of animals on Earth --- there are thousands of types of insects.

Some interesting facts about Insects:

o An insect's body has three parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen.

o Insects have 6 legs --- 3 on each side connected to the thorax ( middle part of the body).

o If it doesn't have 6 legs then it is NOT AN INSECT!

o Insects have hard shell-like bodies.

o Some insects have wings -- some have 2 wings, some have 4 wings.

o Wings help insects get around quickly in case of danger - like if another, bigger bug is trying to eat it! Wings also help bugs get from place to place -- like helping bees get from flower to flower

o Insects do not have lungs but they still breathe air.

o Insects are cold blooded - which means they can't control their body temperature so they cannot live in the very cold weather so they "hibernate" (go to sleep) until the warm weather comes back. As soon as the weather gets warm, they come out again!

o insects eyes have lots of lens so they can't see very clearly like we do. They see darkness and lightness and they see motion, but they can't see you like you can see them!

o WHERE do you find insects? OUTSIDE!!! They live OUTSIDE in the ground, on trees, on leaves, and even in water! Just about anywhere outside. When they come into your house, you'll want to help get them back outside right away.

Let's see how many INSECTS we already know:

 flies , mosquitoes, ladybugs, bees, walking stick, grasshoppers, firefly, moths, beetles, ants, spiders, dragon flies,

o Flies seem to be everywhere and they are very quick flying around the house.

o Ladybugs are red and some have black dots on each side of their back. Some are plain.

 o Dragonflys like to fly on the top of the water to grab some food.

o Butterflies start out as caterpillars and turn into butterflies. (We are going to learn ALL about Butterflies!! More on Butterflies this week!)

o Ants -- come in lots of sizes and colors, there are brown, black and red ants. Ants live in colonies under ground. A colony is a large group of ants that have built a place for themselves to live under ground. You can often see dirt dug away from the place where the ants have made their way underground.

o Beetles can fly and like to eat plants --- some beetles are very bad for plants and farmers do not like when beetles get into their vegetables. Ladybugs are a type of Beetle that farmers DO LIKE because ladybugs eat other beetles that eat the farmer's vegetables! So ladybugs help the farmers!!

o Grasshoppers have very springy back legs and can hop around.

o Bees! There are many different types of bees! Bees live in giant nests called HIVES that they build. We will watch how bees build their hives this week. Bees can sting you if you bother them!! So stay away from bees!

Bees and other insects are busy pollinating flowers -- flying from flower to flower to make more flowers grow - so bees, butterflies and insects do a great job of making flowers look beautiful all summer!

 Insects are important to keeping many things in the environment running smoothly and for helping the plants grow.

**Classwork:** There are two "matching" games to download. Please print **two** copies of each of the pages. Cut up the pieces of ONE PAGE OF EACH Game and leave the other page intact to serve as the "game board". The children should be able to match each insect to its match on the gameboard.

**Videos:** There are several good videos on you tube about Insects. Here are the links to a few:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKQfJFAHW8Q

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiqDniB8T6A

**Story: The Very Quiet Cricket ---- also on you tube: Link:**

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKQfJFAHW8Q**