

## PROJECT INSPIRE LESSON PLAN

# GARDEN ANIMALS WORKSHOP

### Curriculum Objectives

In this workshop, students have the opportunity to learn about different species of animals that live in or near the garden. Students will get a glimpse of the range of biodiversity that can be attracted to the garden, including birds, mammals, and insects. First, students will learn background information on some commonly found species and will explore why these animals are attracted to the garden space. Then they will get the chance to identify some of these species on their own through audio recordings and visual analysis.

### Details

**Location:** Stono Preserve or other garden space

**Lesson:** Indoors or Outdoors

**Activity:** Outdoors

**Time of year:** Anytime

**Age:** Elementary school



### Activity 1: Animal Identification

To learn more about the species that live in or near the garden, students will have the chance to use audio and visual analysis to identify some local animals. Using recordings of bird calls (either through a phone app or other device), leaders will play a variety of bird calls that students then have the chance to identify. As birds are identified, students will learn more about each species and how they communicate amongst themselves. For insect identification, students will examine previously collected insects (such as beetles, aphids, and ladybugs) in Petri dishes using magnifying glasses. After examining the different species of insects, students will be given a scavenger hunt worksheet and will have the chance to look for insects in the garden on their own. They will be instructed to draw three new insects on their worksheet page

### Materials

- Recordings of bird calls (e.g. bird call app)
- Magnifying glasses
- Petri dishes
- Scavenger hunt worksheet
- Pencils/colored pencils

## Additional Resources

- Bird ID Skills: How to Learn Bird Songs and Calls (website)
- Bird-sounds.net (website with 602 species of bird calls)
- A Beginner's Guide to Common Bird Sounds and What They Mean (Audubon website article)
- Five Bird Calls That Will Make You Laugh (article and video)

## Activity 2: My World

Using ropes or sticks, define small areas for campers to investigate. Divide students into small groups of three or four. Each group examines a different area using magnifiers and recording insects found (or evidence of habitat). Students can also temporarily collect insects in bug boxes. When the whole group comes back together you can spend time individually learning more about the insects (i.e. field guides/ instructor observations) and lastly facilitate a "Bug Show and Tell" before releasing the insects back to their habitats. (Adapted from [www.naturely.com](http://www.naturely.com))

## Additional Resources

- South Carolina Insects (insect ID database)
- Pest Identification (insect ID guide)
- True Bugs of South Carolina (insect ID database)

## Materials

- Rope / sticks
- Magnifying glasses
- Paper and pens/pencils (for recording)
- Bug boxes (e.g. small containers to temporarily collect bugs)



Sting Bug (Source: [Greenville News](#))



Boxelder Bug (Source: [Rainbow Pest Experts](#))

## Activity 3: The Noses Game

This is a fun guessing game that also helps children focus their energy. In this game the answer to a riddle gradually comes into focus for the players. Adapt clues to fit animals in our ecosystem. (To relate it to the garden, only include insects or other animals that may be found in or around the garden.) Tell children that you're going to read a list of clues (7-10) that describe an animal. Clues should get progressively more obvious. Instruct them not to yell out their answer when they think they know the identity of the animal, but instead to put their index finger on the tip of their nose. If they change their mind about who the animal is, they can just move their finger off of their nose.

Here are sample clues for a common animal:

1. I can run and jump very fast.
2. I do not have a stationary home, but sleep under bushes.
3. My paws are very furry.
4. I am about the size of a small cat.
5. I have flat teeth with two bigger ones in the front.
6. People hunt me for my soft warm fur.
7. People consider me to be cute and imitate me at Easter.
8. Part of my name comes from my tail that looks cotton.

Answer: Cottontail Rabbit

1. I move quickly now, but not so in my youth.
2. I usually hunt near water, but not always.
3. I'm a strong flier, and I eat flying insects.
4. Sometimes I've very colorful.
5. I'm cold-blooded, and I wear my skeleton on the outside instead of the inside.
6. I have two more legs than a mouse, and I have very large compound eyes.
7. With my four wings, I look like a helicopter in flight.

Answer: Dragon Fly

(Source: [Sharing Nature with Children by Joseph Cornell](#))