



Level 2: Grades 3–5

STUDENT WORKSHEETS

Lesson 1: Animals in the Natural World—The Importance of Wild Places Worksheet 1: Insects and the Web of Life

“One should pay attention to even the smallest crawling creature for these too may have a valuable lesson to teach us, and even the smallest ant may wish to communicate to a man.”

— Black Elk, Oglala Sioux medicine man,
Animals of the Soul: Sacred Animals of the Oglala Sioux,
Joseph Epes Brown (1992)

In your own words, what do you think the Sioux Indians meant by the quote above? How might the quote affect your relationship with the natural world?

Don't step on this insect! He has a job to do. He is part of the Web of Life.

What role do you think insects play in the Web of Life? Have you looked closely at an insect—to see the wings, the colors, the eyes? Have you noticed how busy he is and how hard he works?

In a small group, do research in the library or on the Internet about one of the following insects, or choose another insect to learn about. Report to your class about the insect's habitat, its role and importance in that habitat, and its place on the food chain. Make sure to show a picture—drawing or photo—of the insect.

- Ant
- Aphid
- Bee Fly
- Butterfly
- Cricket
- Dragonfly
- Grasshopper
- Firefly
- Honey Bee
- Ladybug or Ladybird
- Moth
- Praying Mantis
- Walking Stick