

Nature Journaling at Newport State Park:  
Bugs

1. Make sure all participants have a non-lined pad of paper and multiple pencils. Extra sharpeners are needed when out on the trails.
2. After introductions, begin by drawing what you see when you get to where you intend to explore/start. Some people find it easier to identify something from each of the 5 senses.
  - Close your eyes, what do you HEAR?
  - What do you SEE around you? What do the clouds look like?
  - What do you SMELL?
  - Stick your tongue out...can you TASTE the air?
  - Where are you? Are you sitting? Standing? Reach down and TOUCH the ground. What does it feel like?
3. Now put the date, time, temperature, and physical location (address if known) of your location.
4. Meet at the Nature Center
5. This can be a tricky topic. Insects will be the focus but arachnids will fit in here well too.
6. Have participants make three circles on their paper. Label one circle insects, one spiders, and one not sure. Have them then list or draw examples that they might find in each. The not sure circles will be interesting.
7. One of the things that makes an insect an insect is the song it sings. Sing *The Insect Song* to the tune of *Head, Shoulder, Knees, and Toes*. The third line needs to go really fast.
  - Head, thorax, abdomen
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  - Two antennae, two compound eyes, six legs (and sometimes wings)
  - Head, thorax, abdomen

8. Identify the parts on their examples in their Insect circle.
9. What makes a spider different? Discuss
10. Using a butterfly net, go outside and sweep the long grass.  
Take a white sheet or cloth and dump the contents onto the cloth. See if participants can draw/list what they see and place them in the correct circle.
11. Have them take on example and create the beginning of a story using that bug as the main character. Be sure to have them give their bug a name.
12. Share after some write time.



