



# Insect Study

## Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information. You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. + 33216) and/or on Scouting.org. The requirements were last revised on January 1, 2024 • This workbook was updated in January 2024.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. Do the following:

- a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards associated with exposure to ants and bees and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.

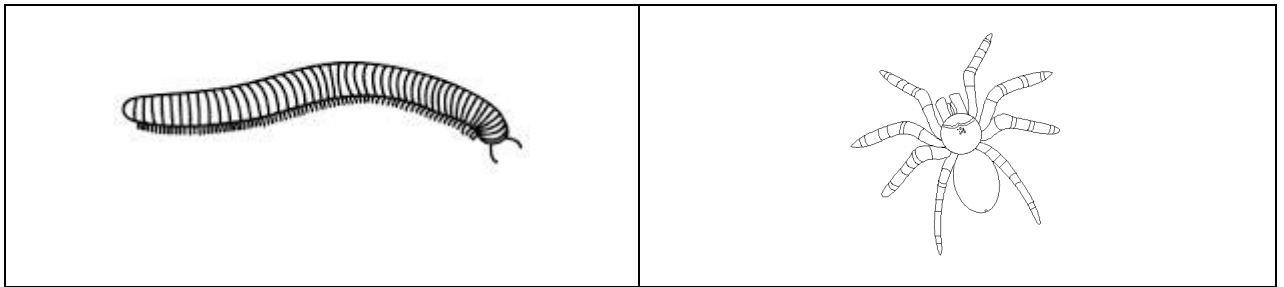

- b. Discuss the prevention of and treatment for health concerns that could occur while working with ants and bees, including insect bites and anaphylactic shock.


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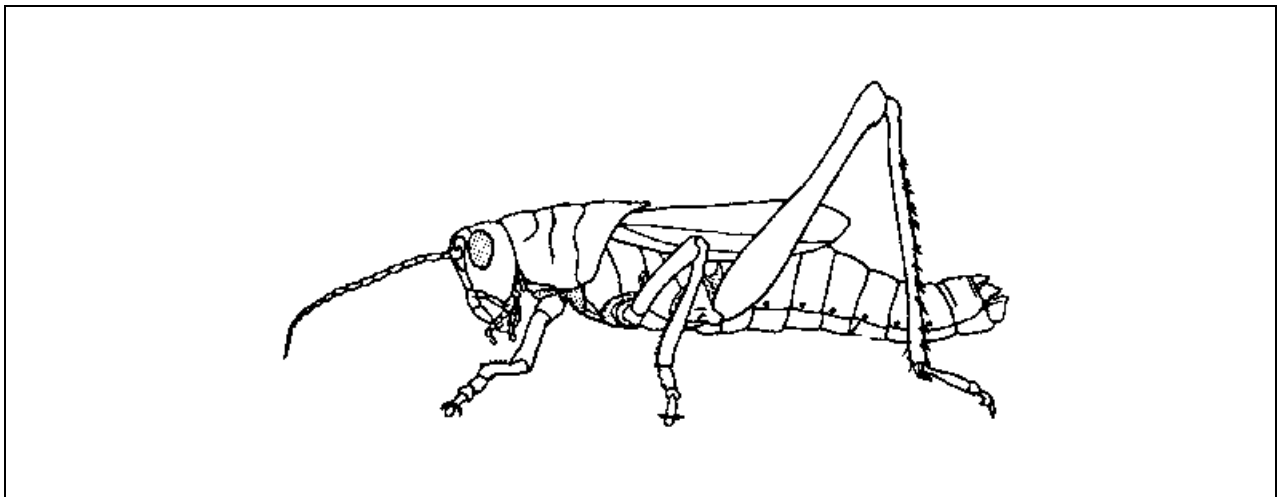
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2. Tell how insects are different from other animals.


Show how insects are different from millipedes and spiders.




3. Point out and name the main parts of an insect.



4. Describe the characteristics that distinguish the major orders of insects.


5. Do the following:

a. Observe 20 different live species of insects in their habitat. In your observations, include at least four orders of insects.

	Species	Order		Species	Order
1.			11.		
2.			12.		
3.			13.		
4.			14.		
5.			15.		
6.			16.		
7.			17.		
8.			18.		
9.			19.		
10.			20.		

b. Make a scrapbook of the 20 insects you observe in 4a (sic – this should be “5a”). Include photographs, sketches, illustrations, and articles. Label each insect with its common and scientific names, where possible. Share your scrapbook with your merit badge counselor.

6. Do the following:
- a. From your scrapbook collection, select eight species of insects and identify what role they play in the ecosystem.:

	Species	Roll in the ecosystem
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

- b. Describe three alternatives to insecticides as a way of preventing crop injury and subsequent yield loss.


Explain the advantages and disadvantages of these alternatives.


- 7. Explain the symbiotic relationship between bees and humankind.


Explain what colony collapse disorder (CCD) is and some of the possible causes.


Discuss how CCD affects our food supply.


8. Compare the life histories of a butterfly and a grasshopper.

Butterfly


Grasshopper:


Tell how they are different.


- 9. Raise an insect through the complete metamorphosis from its larval stage to its adult stage (e.g. raise a butterfly or moth from a caterpillar.)\*

*\*Some insects are endangered species and are protected by federal or state law. Every species is found only in its own special type of habitat. Be sure to check natural resources authorities in advance to be sure that you will not be collecting any species that is known to be protected or endangered, or in any habitat where collecting is prohibited. In most cases, all specimens should be returned at the location of capture after the requirement is met. Check with your merit badge counselor for those instances where the return of these specimens would not be appropriate.*

10 Do ONE of the following:

- a. Observe an ant colony in a formicarium (ant farm). Find the queen and worker ants. Explain to your counselor the different chambers found within an ant colony.


- b. Study a hive of bees. Remove the combs and find the queen. Estimate the amount of brood and count the number of queen cells. Explain how to determine the amount of honey in the hive.


11. Tell the things that make social insects different from solitary insects.


12. Tell how insects fit in the food web of other insects, fish, birds, and mammals.


13. Find out about three career opportunities in insect study.

1.	
2.	
3.	

Pick one and find out about the education, training, and experience required for this profession.

Career:

Education:


Training:


Experience:


Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.


**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>. You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.**