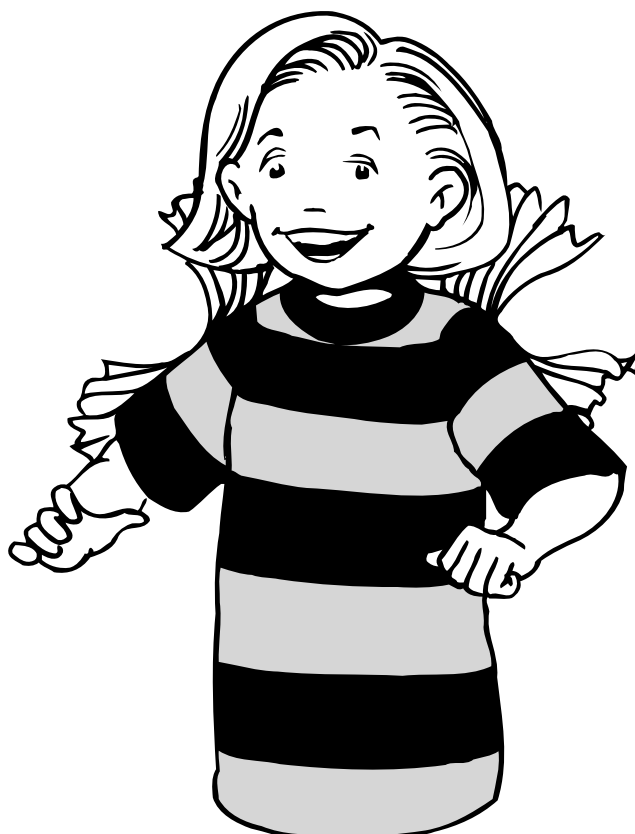


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# Introduction

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In this unit, children explore the world of insects and spiders. They crawl into a refrigerator box cocoon and emerge with butterfly wings. By connecting painted pillowcases stuffed with newspaper, they create a larger-than-life caterpillar. Children dressed in simple bee costumes buzz around a box-and-laundry-basket beehive. Other children pretend they are beekeepers in their paper-bag beekeepers' helmets.

In a three-dimensional garden, stuffed paper-bag cocoons hang from a large box tree. Clothespeg butterflies flutter on the leaves. Children work together to create a pipe-cleaner spider web and knee-high nylon spiders. A papier-mâché ant hill, complete with a paper towel tube tunnel for the styrofoam ants, adds to the garden experience.

Through sequencing, counting, and matching activities, young learners will observe the difference between insects and spiders.

Throughout the unit, share facts about insects and spiders. Discuss the fact that insects have six legs and antennae. Some insects live on dry land and others live near water. Most insects eat by sucking plant juices. Insects include ants, aphids, bees, beetles, butterflies, crickets, flies, grasshoppers, moths, and wasps. Spiders are arachnids. They have eight legs, no wings, and spinnerets.

Shhh! Shhh! Can you hear the bees buzzing and cicadas chirping? Open the pages to *Insects and Spiders* and let the fascinating world of nature unfold.

## Helpful Hints:

- Stores often will give away their discarded boxes.
- Boxes can collapse for easy transporting and storing.
- Some boxes may be reused for different projects.
- Use cable ties, string, or wool for assembling the box projects. (Cable ties provide the sturdiest form of attaching.)
- A mat knife or Exacto blade works best for cutting boxes, but a sharp kitchen knife will work well, too. Use the knife or blade well out of the way of children!
- Local businesses often will donate supplies.
- Shop discount stores for pantyhose, knee-high stockings, cotton balls, cotton buds, sponges, and paper goods.
- Scour garage sales for miscellaneous items, such as wire whisks, potato mashers, and biscuit cutters.
- Involve parents in your projects. They can save items for you.

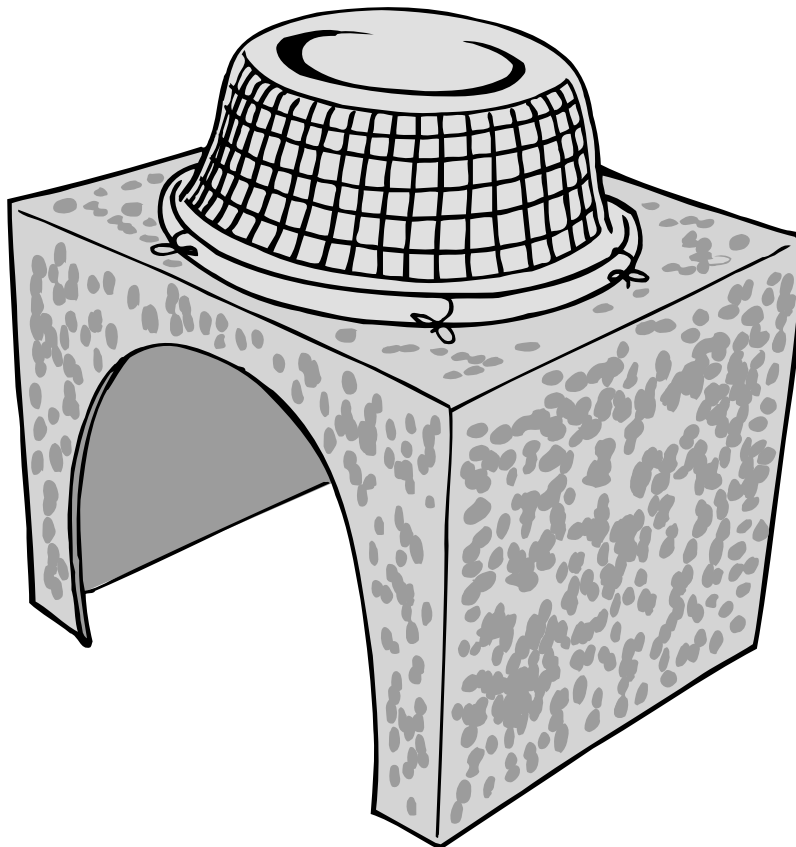


# Busy Beehive

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## Materials:

Dryer box, plastic laundry basket, plastic bubble-wrap packaging material, tempera paint (brown and yellow), shallow tins for paint, plastic cable ties (or wool or string), scissors, sharp instrument for cutting (for adult use only)



## Directions:

1. Completely remove one end of the box.
2. Cut a U-shaped opening on one side of the box. The opening should be large enough for a child to fit through.
3. On the top of the box, cut an opening that is slightly smaller than the size of the laundry basket. Punch several holes around the opening.
4. From the inside of the box, insert the laundry basket through the opening. Secure the laundry basket to the box with cable ties.

# Busy Beehive

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5. Provide sections of plastic bubble wrap for the children to use to paint the beehive. They will dip the bubble wrap in the tins of paint and press the wrap to the box to make interesting prints.

## **Option:**

Instead of bubble wrap, the bottoms of egg cartons can be dipped in tempera paint and stamped onto the exterior of the hive.

## **Facts to Share:**

After visiting different flowers, honey bees return to the hive with nectar. Worker bees store the nectar in combs. There it thickens into what is known as honey. Bees eat this store of food in the winter and also use it to feed their young.

## **Book Links:**

- *The Fascinating World of Bees* by Angels Julivert
- *Little Bees: All Kinds of Everything* by Sam Godwin

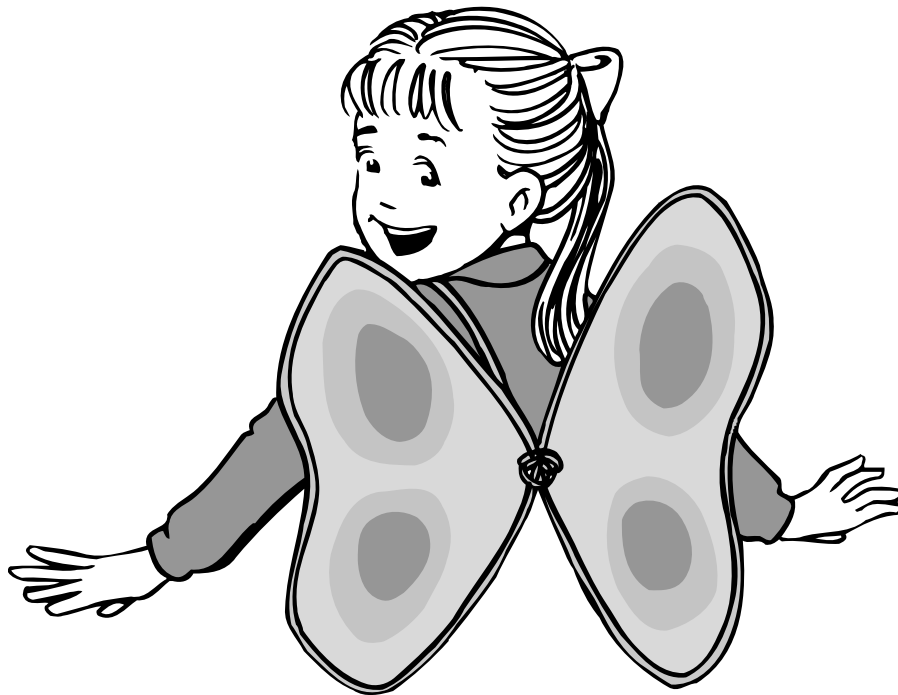


# Butterfly Wings

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## Materials:

Wire coathangers (two per child), knee-high stockings (one pair per child), elastic, tempera paint (in assorted colours), shallow tins for paint, large cotton balls, masking tape, scissors



## Directions for One Pair of Wings:

1. Cut elastic into two 30-cm strips.
2. Bend the wire hangers into the shape of butterfly wings. Bend the hook sections into interlocking circles and secure with masking tape. (Make sure the tips of the hooks are well-covered with the tape!)
3. Stretch knee-high stockings over the hangers.
4. Provide tempera paint and cotton balls for the child to use to decorate the butterfly wings.
5. Once the paint has dried, wrap the two elastic strips around the hook section of the wings and knot the loose ends together. The child's arms go through the elastic and the wings are worn on the back.

## Note:

This activity is used with the Cool Cocoon (p. 7).

## Book Link:

- *The Magic School Bus: Butterfly and the Bog Beast: A Book About Butterfly Camouflage* by Nancy E. Krulik