

ACTIVITY

Name That Critter

You and your team will investigate arthropods and develop a Jeopardy-style game to test your classmates' knowledge of arthropods. After you have completed the activity, respond to these questions in your journal.

- ▶ What is an arthropod?
- ▶ What are the shared physical and behavioral characteristics of arthropods?
- ▶ What role do arthropods play in ecosystems?

Gather with your team and choose a captain and a note taker for today, as well as an artist to illustrate the group's findings. Before you begin your investigation, consider with your team what you already know about bugs. Use the questions below to structure your discussion and jot down your notes.

- ▶ What is a bug? What are your own feelings towards bugs?
- ▶ What organisms are close relatives to bugs?
- ▶ What role do bugs and their relatives play in ecosystems?

The captain will appoint group members to collect the required materials while the rest of the group reviews today's procedure. Before beginning, the captain will make sure that the group has all required materials, and that everyone knows the day's procedure.

The note taker will take notes on the group's findings for your team and the artist will illustrate some of those findings. Remember to record your observations and explanations in your journal for your own research notes. Include drawings to illustrate your findings.



ACTIVITY | Name That Critter

MATERIALS

- ▶ journals
- ▶ index cards
- ▶ activity sheets

PROCEDURE

1. Today you will investigate how a group of organisms are related. Before you start, develop your hypothesis: What is a bug and what are its closest relatives? What role do bugs play in ecosystems?
2. With your group, work through the list of organisms on the activity sheet. Investigating how they are alike and how they are different. Take notes in your own journal too.



ACTIVITY | Name That Critter

GROUP WORKSHEET 1
TEAM _____

GROUP MEMBERS _____

CAPTAIN _____ NOTE TAKER _____

ARTIST(S) _____

What on Earth do these creatures have in common? Today, you'll find out!

1. All team members, including the captain and the secretary, are responsible for research on the creatures below. Use your textbook or other resources, such as field guides. You can also use what you already know about these creatures. Divide the list between team members or conduct research together, as your teacher requests.

CREATURE	DESCRIPTION	WHAT SIMILARITIES DO YOU SEE BETWEEN THIS ORGANISM AND OTHERS ON THIS PAGE?
SHRIMP		
COCKROACHES		
TICKS		
HONEY BEES		
HORSESHOE CRABS		

ACTIVITY | Name That Critter

GROUP WORKSHEET 2
TEAM _____

CREATURE	DESCRIPTION	WHAT SIMILARITIES DO YOU SEE BETWEEN THIS ORGANISM AND OTHERS ON THIS PAGE?
BUTTERFLIES		
SPIDERS		
SCORPIONS		
LOBSTERS		
CENTIPEDES		

2. If all these creatures were part of one group of creatures, how would you describe that group?

GROUP DYNAMICS

Comment on the way your group worked together.

