













Bugs & Crawly Things










WEEK 1 BACKYARD BUGS

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
<p>LESSON 1</p> <p>What Makes Spots?</p> <p>M 3 Shapes CA 3b Visual Arts</p>	<p>Circular items: lids, cups, bottle caps</p> <p>Paper</p> <p>Paint</p>	<p>What else can create circle shapes?</p> 	<p>Set out paper, plates of paint and circular items, such as lids, cups and bottle caps. Encourage the children to explore making circular shapes using the materials.</p>
<p>LESSON 2</p> <p>Spider Web Zone</p> <p>SCI 1a Investigation & Inquiry</p>	<p>Yarn pieces</p> <p>Tape</p> <p>Toy spiders or pompoms</p>	<p>What can you build on the spider web?</p> 	<p>Tape pieces of yarn on the floor to create a web. Invite the children to build on or inside the spider web. Set out play spider toys or pompoms, if desired.</p>
<p>LESSON 3</p> <p>Measure My Hop</p> <p>M 4a Measurement PD 1 Gross Motor</p>	<p>Chalk</p>	<p>How far can you jump?</p> 	<p>Draw a line with chalk on the ground for the children to stand on. Encourage them to jump as far as they can. Mark their jumps with chalk. Write their names next to their chalk mark.</p>
<p>LESSON 4</p> <p>Ant Families</p> <p>SCI 4 Technology M 6 Classification</p>	<p>Bin</p> <p>Variety of pompoms</p> <p>Tweezers</p> <p>Bowls or plates</p>	<p>What do you think ant families do together?</p> 	<p>Cut pipecleaners into smaller pieces and place them in a bin with a variety of pompoms. Set out the bowls or plates. Encourage the children to use tweezers to sort the “ant families.”</p>
<p>LESSON 5</p> <p>Pollination</p> <p>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science CA 4a Drama</p>	<p>Pompom</p> <p>Pipecleaners</p> <p>Sand</p> <p>Flour</p> <p>Cornmeal</p> <p>Muffin cups</p>	<p>How does the pollen move from one place to another?</p> 	<p>Put sand, flour and cornmeal in muffin cups to represent different types of “pollen.” Create a “bee” by wrapping three pipecleaners around a pompom to make six legs. Invite the children to take turns dipping the bee into each type of pollen and explore how it transfers.</p>






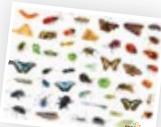
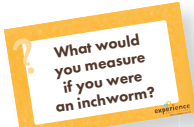
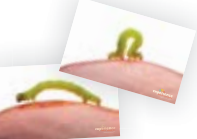


WEEK 2 BUG HOMES

<p>LESSON 6</p> <p>Nature Bugs</p> <p>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science CA 3b Visual Arts</p>	<p>Nature items</p> <p>Tray</p> <p>Photos of insects or insect books</p> <p>Tape</p>	<p>What will you use to create a bug?</p> 	<p>Set out a variety of nature items on a tray. Tape insect photos on a nearby wall or place insect books within reach for reference. Invite them to use the materials to create insects. Take photos of the creations, if desired.</p>
<p>LESSON 7</p> <p>Worm Tunnels</p> <p>SCI 1a Investigation & Inquiry SCI 3a Physical Science</p>	<p>Cardboard tubes</p> <p>Bowl</p> <p>Yarn pieces</p>	<p>How do you think worm tunnels keep worms safe?</p> 	<p>Set out cardboard tubes of different lengths and sizes. Set out a bowl of “worms” (pieces of yarn). Encourage the children to build tunnels with the tubes for worms to travel through.</p>
<p>LESSON 8</p> <p>Sand Mounds</p> <p>SCI 3b Physical Science SCI 4 Technology</p>	<p>Bin of sand</p> <p>Cup</p> <p>Lids</p> <p>Cardboard tubes</p> <p>Plastic toys (optional)</p>	<p>Why do you think ants build anthills?</p> 	<p>Fill a bin with sand. Add a cup, lids and cardboard tubes. Provide a spray bottle with water. Invite the children to cover items with sand to make mounds or hills and spray to explore texture. Add plastic toys, if desired.</p>
<p>LESSON 9</p> <p>Web Tie</p> <p>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science SED 3b Social Relationships</p>	<p>Basket</p> <p>String-like material: yarn, fabric, rope</p>	<p>How can you help make a web?</p> 	<p>Set out a basket of different string-like materials, such as yarn, fabric and rope. Encourage the children to work together to tie the different materials together to create one long piece. Explore how to create a web by draping or wrapping the tied pieces.</p>
<p>LESSON 10</p> <p>Honey for Sale</p> <p>SS 2b Civics & Economics</p>	<p>Clear containers</p> <p>Bin of yellow scrap paper</p> <p>Tongs</p> <p>Paper</p> <p>Play money (optional)</p>	<p>Where might you buy honey?</p> 	<p>Set out a variety of clear containers and a bin full of yellow scrap paper with tongs. Encourage the children to use the tongs to transfer the scrap paper “honey” to the clear containers. Help the children make a sign with words, such as “Honey for sale” or “Honey \$1.” Set out play money, if desired.</p>

WEEK 3 CAMOUFLAGE BUGS

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 11 Butterfly Wings <small>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science M 2a Spatial Awareness CA 3b Visual Arts</small>	Paper Pencil Paint Paintbrushes	 	Set out paint, brushes and paper folded in half. Trace half of a butterfly on the top half, with the center along the fold. Invite the children to paint the half butterfly. Unfold the paper, then fold it again so the painted side transfers to the blank side, creating a symmetrical butterfly.
LESSON 12 Moth Wings <small>SCI 3b Physical Science</small>	Clear zip bags Textured items: pompoms, shredded paper, leaves Pipecleaners or rubber bands	 	Fill clear zip bags with textured items (e.g., pompoms, shredded paper or leaves) and tie the center with a pipecleaner or rubber band. Leave some bags empty so the children can fill them with items of their choice.
LESSON 13 Leaf Prints <small>SCI 3b Physical Science PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Leaves Paper Crayons	 	Set out a variety of leaves, paper and crayons. Encourage the children to create leaf prints by placing a leaf under the paper, then rubbing a crayon over it.
LESSON 14 Bug Map <small>SS 3b Geography M 2b Spatial Awareness</small>	Simple map Bug figurines or photos of bugs Tape Red marker		Draw a simple map of the outdoor space. Place bug figures (or bug photos taped to blocks) outside in a few different places. Mark the map with a red X to show where you placed the bugs. Encourage the children to look at the map and go for a bug hunt.
LESSON 15 Wooden Structures <small>SCI 1a & SCI 1b Investigation & Inquiry PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Wooden building materials: dowels, blocks, sticks, twigs	 	Set out wooden building materials (e.g., wooden dowels, blocks or real sticks/twigs) in the block area. Encourage the children to explore building structures with the materials.

WEEK 4 CRAWLY THINGS

LESSON 16 Threading Caterpillars <small>PD 2 Fine Motor SCI 3b Physical Science</small>	Items with holes: beads, buttons, or hole-punched leaves Pipecleaners	 	Set out a variety of items with holes, like beads, buttons or hole-punched leaves. Place pipecleaners and other materials out for the children to thread items onto. Encourage them to create caterpillars.
LESSON 17 Slug Slime Bags <small>SCI 3b Physical Science LLD 2a Communication</small>	One-gallon zip bags Hair gel (optional) Flour Water Food coloring Tape	 	For each sensory bag, mix together 1 cup of flour, 6 tablespoons of water and 2 drops of food coloring in a one-gallon clear zipper bag. Secure the zipper end with tape. Another option is to put hair gel in clear zipper bags.
LESSON 18 Block Bugs <small>PD 4b Personal Care SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science</small>	Yarn Twigs Pipecleaners Paper plates Word Wall Vocabulary Cards* Scissors	 	Set out materials in the block area for building bugs, such as yarn, twigs, pipecleaners and paper plates (cut into halves or quarters for wings). Set out the Vocabulary Cards to help the children choose a bug to build.
LESSON 19 Inchworm Measure <small>M 4a Measurement</small>	Measuring tapes or rulers Yarn Scissors (child-safe)	 	Set out measuring tapes or rulers, yarn and child-safe scissors. Encourage the children to measure the yarn, then cut pieces to make long and short inchworms.
LESSON 20 Under Rocks <small>ATL 1a Attention & Persistence SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science</small>	Rocks Small items: figurines, yarn pieces, pictures	 	Gather different-sized rocks and place them outside. Put a small item (figurine, piece of yarn or picture) under each one. Encourage the children to look under the rocks to find the "bugs." Explain that centipedes are often found in dark, damp places, such as under rocks or logs.

Set-Up Directions

These open-ended STEAM stations invite the children to investigate, problem-solve and create.

- Hang the Big Question and Inspiration Photos on the wall next to the place you set up the investigation.
- Use the labels to identify and organize materials children will use (and clean up) as they explore STEAM stations.

ROTATING YOUR STATIONS

- Introduce one new STEAM station daily. Leave that station set up all week. By the end of the week, the children will have five stations to explore.

? How can you make a whole butterfly from half a butterfly?




STEAM
STATIONS

STEAM stations integrate perfectly with the monthly Experience Preschool Curriculum kits for a comprehensive research-based early learning system. Learn more and start your research-based curriculum today.

[ExperienceCurriculum.com](https://www.ExperienceCurriculum.com)



experience
EARLY LEARNING



**What else
can create
circle shapes?**



**What can you
build on
the spider web?**



**How far can
you jump?**




**What do you
think ant families
do together?**



**How does
the pollen move
from one place
to another?**



**What will you
use to create
a bug?**



**How do you
think worm
tunnels keep
worms safe?**




**Why do you
think ants
build anthills?**




**How can
you help
make a web?**



**Where might
you buy honey?**



**How can you
make a whole
butterfly from
half a butterfly?**




**What colors
do you see in
the moth wings?**




**What leaf
shape or color
is your favorite?**



**What else can
you find
using a map?**



**What kind
of structure
will you build?**




**If you were
a caterpillar,
would you become
a butterfly or moth?**



What do you notice about the slug and its path?



What is the most unusual bug you've seen?



**What would
you measure
if you were
an inchworm?**



**What other bugs
live under rocks?**







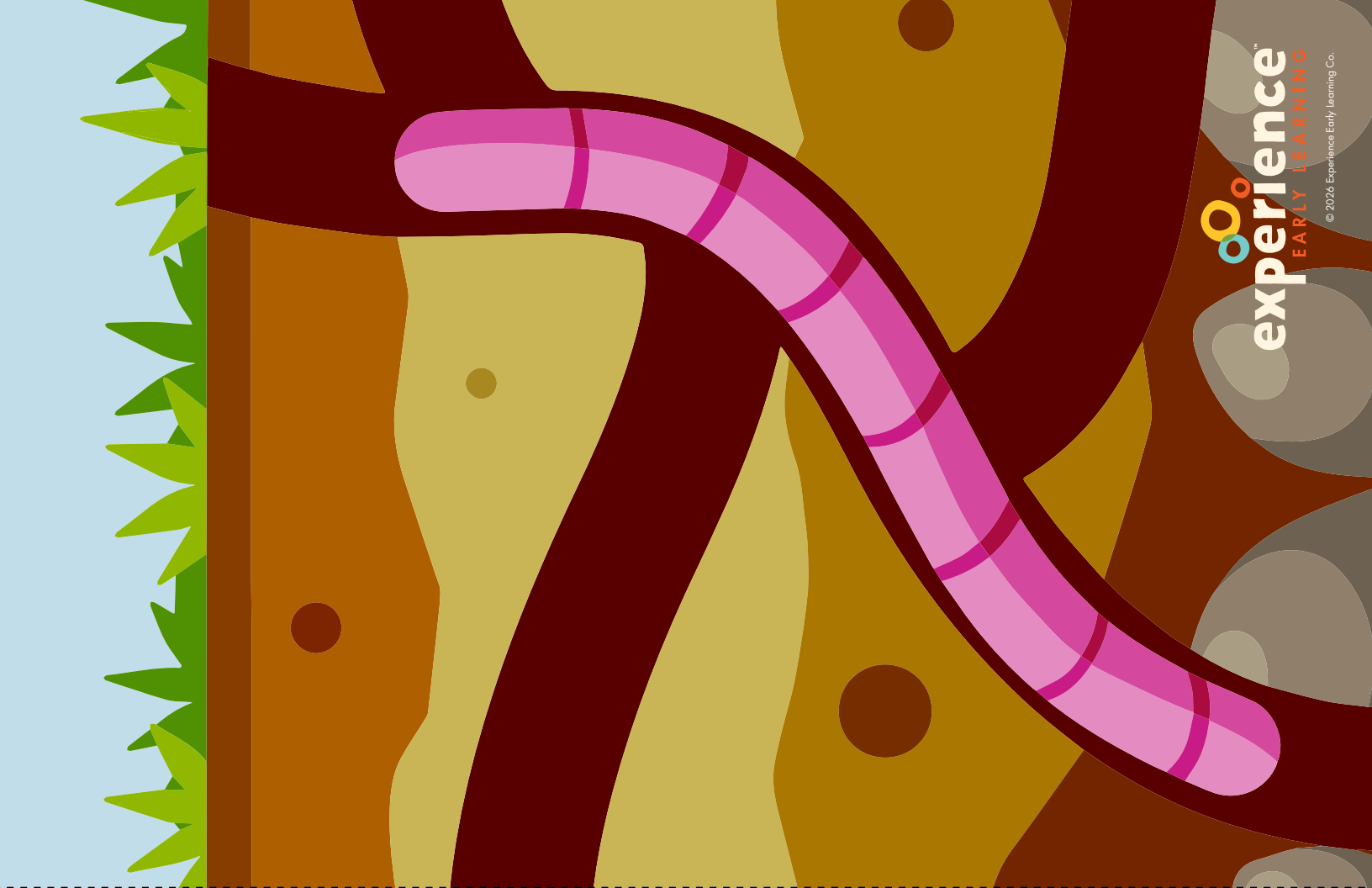



© 2026 Experience Early Learning Co.




© 2026 Experience Early Learning Co.











LEAVES






experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2026 Experience Early Learning Co.




experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2026 Experience Early Learning Co.

Caterpillars







