

Suggested Readings/Annotated Bibliography

Burnie, D. & Wilson, D. (2001). *Smithsonian Institution Animal: The Definitive Visual Guide to the World's Wildlife*. New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc.

This illustrated informational book offers valuable insight into the anatomy of thousands of animal species, including that of the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach. The book also provides pictorial representations of common habitats and ecosystems found around the world, which students can utilize to identify various living and nonliving features.

Caudill, R. (1964). *A pocketful of cricket*. (1st Edition ed.). New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

A boy takes his pet cricket to school where it first disturbs the class with its chirping, but then becomes the show-and-tell attraction.

Doris, E. (1996). *Meet the arthropods...* New York, New York: Thames and Hudson Inc.

Meet the arthropods contains a variety of arthropod-related activities that teachers can do with their students. Activities include butterfly watching, fishing for crabs, and finding arthropods at a local pond. Activities include a list of things to bring and detailed illustrated instructions about how to carry out the activity. The activities also include extensive background information about what can be learned from the activities.

Facklam, M. (1998). *The Big Bug Book*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company.

This developmentally appropriate picture book offers a unique perspective on 13 of the world's largest insects, which includes the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach. The illustrations depict each species of insect in unnatural settings to reinforce the life-size scale. For example, the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches are pictured climbing on alphabet blocks in a well-lit area. Provided below each illustration is scientific information that elaborates on how the insect's behavior varies depending on the environmental conditions, such as temperature and quantities of light. Students can utilize this book to research each of the 13 insects and determine if they are nocturnal or diurnal in behavior.

Franchino, V. (2012). *Tarantulas*. China: Scholastics, Children's Press.

Tarantulas gives a brief overview about general tarantula traits, such as their anatomy and habitat. Tarantulas are carnivores that sometimes use venom to paralyze their prey. They often live in burrows lined with silk. The final pages describe how some species of tarantulas have become endangered due to humans taking them out of the wild and selling them as pets. Also, tarantula habitats are being destroyed by human expansion. Tarantulas can be preserved by breeding them in zoos and other places where they are safe.

Kalman, B. (2003). *What is an arthropod?* New York, New York: Crabtree Publishing Company.

What is an arthropod? is an illustrated overview about the various arthropod species and traits. Arthropods are the largest phylum on earth and include insects, crustaceans, and arachnids. They have segmented bodies and exoskeletons, and molt their skin in order to grow. Many arthropods are in danger due to humans destroying their habitats to make room for new cities and towns. Finally, the book provides some websites that you can visit to learn about how to help arthropods.

Haduch, B. (2001). *Food rules! : the stuff you munch, its crunch, its punch, and why you sometimes lose your lunch.* (1st ed. ed., pp. 81-85 inclusive). New York: Dutton Children's Books.

This book is about the science of our bodies and food. It is very student friendly and fun. The chapter I would focus on for this lesson would be chapter 16 (pages 81-85). This chapter focuses on insects as food. On page 83 it talks about mealworms used as food by the New York Entomological Society at their buggy banquet. Kids will probably find that both gross and exciting.

Stewart, M. (2001). *A true book: Insects.* Canada: A Division of Grolier Publishing Co., Inc.

Insects gives a brief general overview about the various traits that all insects share. Insects have three segments: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. They live in a wide variety of habitats including scorching deserts and freezing tundras. Insects seem like pests but many of them can play important roles in our lives. For example, some insects carry pollen from flower to flower.