



Outdoor Hour Challenge

Insect Challenges #22-28

<http://handbookofnaturestudy.blogspot.com>

Getting Started Challenges also available at:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/6059459>

"If children are terrified of bugs, it's usually because they caught the fear of adults around them."
Charlotte Mason in Modern English, volume 1 page 58

Outdoor Hour Challenge #22

Focus on Insects-Butterflies

1. This challenge starts the beginning of our mini-focus on insects. Read in the *Handbook of Nature Study* the introduction to insects, pages 294-300. The Black swallowtail and the Monarch butterflies are specifically covered in the *Handbook of Nature Study*. You can read over those sections before your outdoor time in case you encounter those particular butterflies and to give you ideas for observing any sort of butterfly that you may have in your local area.

2. Use your 10-15 minutes of outdoor time to look for insects and in particular butterflies. Spotting butterflies might need to be done as you go about your daily activities and then taking the opportunity to do your observations at that time. Don't be discouraged if you don't see a butterfly this week but look at this as an ongoing challenge as the summer progresses.

Here is a link to an article on how to attract and catch/release butterflies.

How to Catch Butterflies

http://www.ehow.com/how_2070424_catch-butterflies.html

3. After you have your outdoor time, provide an opportunity for working on a nature journal entry. You might consider drawing a labeling a butterfly and its parts as a way of narration of the points you have discussed this week.

4. If you observe more than one kind of butterfly this week, make sure to start a list of butterflies in your nature journal. I like to keep a running list in the back of my nature journal.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #23
Focus on Insects-Moths

1. In this challenge we will continue our mini-focus on insects. Turn to the table of contents in the *Handbook of Nature Study* and skim down the list of moths discussed in the book. Read those sections in the *Handbook of Nature Study* on moths, pages 310 to 329. I personally don't know much about moths so I am going to read through all the sections and see what I can learn. Here is some general information.

Moths	Butterflies
Wings not attached	Wings hooked together in flight
Nocturnal (active at night)	Diurnal (active in the day)
Wings flat when resting	Wings upright when resting
Feathered antennae	Straight, plain antennae

2. This challenge will need to be completed in the evenings. Turn on a light outside or take a flashlight outside. Moths are attracted to light so you should have some success if you are patient. Make sure to look on walls and plants near the light for moths.

Try this website for further techniques in attracting moths

<http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/uploads/How%20to%20start%20mothing.pdf>

If you are unable to complete the challenge this week for moths, please feel free to take your outdoor time at a time that works for you family. Use your time to look for insects and to enjoy the summer air and sunshine.

3. After you have your outdoor time, provide an opportunity for working on a nature journal entry. This might be a good time to discuss the differences between butterflies and moths. If you didn't see any moths, you can record in your nature journal any other kinds of insects that you found during your outdoor time.

4. If you observe more than one kind of moth this week, make sure to start a list of moths in your nature journal. I like to keep a running list in the back of my nature journal. If you observed some other kinds of insects during the week, record those too.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #24

Focus on Insects-Crickets

1. This week read about crickets in the *Handbook of Nature Study*, pages 344-349. Most of us have heard crickets in the evenings and children will be very interested to learn more about these insects that play music with their legs for us to enjoy. Here is a link to a YouTube.com video that shows what a cricket looks like when he is singing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8E6q9W8Ur2k>

2. Try to spend some of your outdoor time in the evening air. Our family likes to sit on our deck and watch as the stars come out after sunset. This is a perfect activity to couple with listening for crickets because it is just about at the same time that you will begin to hear crickets singing their evening songs. Relax and enjoy the night air.

3. Give the opportunity for a nature journal entry. After you have your outdoor time, provide an opportunity for working on a nature journal entry. Use the *Handbook of Nature Study* or a library book to find an illustration or photo of an actual cricket to draw in your journal. Have your child label the entry with a title, the date, and the place that you made your observation. Parents can always help the child with this part if needed. This is a good time to work on using descriptive words like in challenge #2. The more you use the proper names for items you see during your nature study, the sooner your children will learn and remember them for themselves.

4. If you observed some other kinds of insects during the week, give the option for making a nature journal for those too. Make sure to pull out the *Handbook of Nature Study* to see if the insect you found is listed and you can read more about it there. If you are keeping a running list of insects you have observed during this focus period, add the insect's name to the list.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the *Handbook of Nature Study* blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #25

Focus on Insects-Housefly

1. This week read about houseflies in the *Handbook of Nature Study*, pages 358-361. This reading is important this week since we rarely take the time to observe a housefly close-up. Highlight or underline interesting facts as you read so when you introduce the housefly this week to your children you will have a way to remember some interesting tidbits. I know some families like to read the sections together but it works just as well if you find a few points to share with your child after you do the reading yourself. The observation suggestions on pages 360-361 give us specific things to look for. Remember our focus right now is on insects so if you don't find a fly to observe, you can always look for other insects to study.

2. Your 15-20 minutes of outdoor time this week can be spent looking for insects. We always end up with flies when we eat outdoors. I also have one window that always seems to have a fly buzzing around it. Keep your eyes open for a housefly to observe. Do not worry if you don't see any this week. If you do your reading, you will be prepared when you next come across this insect.

3. Give the opportunity for a nature journal entry. If you need ideas for alternative nature journal activities, please see challenges 2 and 3.

4. If you observed some other kinds of insects during the week, give the option for making a nature journal for those too. Make sure to pull out the *Handbook of Nature Study* to see if the insect you found is listed and you can read more about it there. If you are keeping a running list of insects you have observed during this focus period, add the insect's name to the list.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the *Handbook of Nature Study* blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #26

Focus on Insects-Ladybugs and Aphids

1. This week read about ladybugs and aphids in the *Handbook of Nature Study*, pages 364-366 and pages 351-354. Remember our focus right now is on insects so if you don't find either of these insects to observe, you can always look for other insects to study. If you do your reading, you will be prepared when you next come across these insects.

2. Your 15-20 minutes of outdoor time this week can be spent looking for insects. I know it is still very hot for most of us but if you get out early, even before breakfast, you might be able to enjoy the morning air and a few insects too.

3. Give the opportunity for a nature journal entry. If you need ideas for alternative nature journal activities, please see challenges 2 and 3. You might want to draw the ladybug life cycle or show how ants benefit from aphids by providing them with food. Encourage your child to draw something that interested them from your nature time. When my children were young, I considered a drawing, a date, and a label as a successful nature journal.

4. Make sure to pull out the *Handbook of Nature Study* to see if any insects you find are listed and you can read more about it there. If you are keeping a running list of insects you have observed during this focus period, add the insect's name to the list.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #27

Focus on Insects-Bees

1. This week read about bees in the *Handbook of Nature Study*, pages 384-400. There are sections on leaf-cutter bees, carpenter bees, bumblebees, and honeybees in the Handbook of Nature Study. You may not have every kind of bee in your location but I found the information very interesting and maybe someday I will have the opportunity to observe all the different kinds of bees discussed in the book. Remember our focus right now is on insects so if you don't find a bee to observe, you can always look for other insects to study.

2. Your 15-20 minutes of outdoor time this week can be spent looking for insects. Make your goal just to get outside in your own backyard and find something to observe with your child. If during that time you find an insect, take as long as you can to describe what it looks like, what it is doing, and then try to come up with some questions to answer later with your Handbook of Nature Study or a field guide. If you find a bee to observe during your nature time or at another time during the week, use the opportunity to relate some facts from your reading in the Handbook of Nature Study.

3. Give the opportunity for a nature journal entry. It might be hard to draw a bee from your outdoor time but it would be a great idea to find a photo of a bee online or use the diagram on page 391 to make an entry about bees in your journal. Another idea is to use a notebooking page and fill it in with your thoughts and observations from your Outdoor Hour time.

4. If you are keeping a running list of insects you have observed during this focus period, add the insect's name to the list. We have two more weeks focusing on insects so try to catch up on your list if you have neglected it recently.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.

Outdoor Hour Challenge #28

Focus on Insects-Dragonflies and Damselflies

1. This week read about dragonflies and damselflies in the *Handbook of Nature Study*, pages 401-408. You also may enjoy reading page 400-401 about the insects of the brook and pond. Remember our focus right now is on insects so if you don't find a dragonfly or a damselfly to observe, you can always look for other insects to study.

"A pond without dragonflies darting about it, or without the exquisitely iridescent damsel flies clinging to the leaves of its border would be a lonely place indeed."

Handbook of Nature Study, page 401

2. Your 15-20 minutes of outdoor time this week can be spent looking for insects. If you have access to a pond, this would be a great week to make a short trip to the pond's edge to make some observations. If you are sticking close to home and in your own backyard, look for any insects that you can observe. Remember to look under rocks (carefully if you live in snake country), under logs, on tree trunks, on the backsides of leaves, inside a flower, in a flowering bush or tree, and even in your window sill.

3. Give the opportunity for a nature journal entry. Dragonflies and damselflies are lots of fun to draw. Here is a website that tells you step by step how to draw a dragonfly...try it together as a family. <http://library.thinkquest.org/J001401/bug%20drawings/howtodrawthedragonfly.htm> (or you could just Google "how to draw a dragonfly")

4. If you are keeping a running list of insects you have observed during this focus period, add any new insect names to your list. This is our last week to focus on insects in the Outdoor Hour Challenges. It might be enjoyable to take a few minutes this week to review the insects you have learned about and observed during the last seven weeks with your children. If you have a list of insects that you have observed, make sure it is complete before we move on to something new next week.

5. Post an entry on your blog sharing your experiences and then come back to the Outdoor Hour Challenge post and add your blog link to Mr. Linky. All the challenges are listed on the sidebar of the Handbook of Nature Study blog.