

PARENTS: PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LIST HAS NOT BEEN UPDATED IN SEVERAL YEARS. USE IT AS YOU CAN, BUT REALIZE THAT SOME ITEMS MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE JMRL SYSTEM IN CHARLOTTESVILLE.

Insect Unit Book, Video, and Website Resources



Please note that the number in parenthesis following the author's name is the number of copies of each book there are in the JMRL library. Enjoy choosing some for your child to read to enhance their study of insects. Have fun!
easy reading books:

1. Bugs are Insects by Anne Rockwell (9)
Beautiful pictures/a great book to start out the unit with as it explains the basics of insect characteristics.
2. Ant Cities by Arthur Dorros (7)
This title has good pictures and explanation of the fascinating world of the ant. Did you know that an ant can lift 50 times its own weight? If we could lift that much, we could lift our car to change a tire!
3. Are you a Ladybug? by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries (3)
This is a backyard book published by Kingfisher. Great information on the ladybug
4. Are you a Dragonfly? by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries (3)
This is a backyard book published by Kingfisher. Great information on the dragonfly.
**Please note that there is some evolutionary material on p30 in reference to the age of the dragonfly.
5. Fireflies in the Night by Judy Hawes (9)
How do fireflies make their light and why? Some scientific information about fireflies along with a story about their charm and wonder.
6. Monarch Butterfly by Gail Gibbons (10)
From egg to caterpillar to butterfly—includes beautiful illustrations along the way.

Step-up readers followed by more in-depth reading:

7. Insects do the Strangest Things by Leonara and Arthur Hornblow (2)
This title is written in a very interesting way. A perfect read for the student that is reading chapter books.
8. What's Inside Insects? a Dorling Kindersley book (7)
Beautiful pictures where the outside of the insect has been peeled away. Where is the beetle's heart? Brain? The insides of many insects are explained.
9. Insect Metamorphosis by Ron and Nancy Goor (2)
Through beautiful photography, the stages of metamorphosis are explained.
10. Amazing Insects (Eyewitness Junior) by Laurence Mound (10)
published by Dorling Kindersley—great photos and explanation!
11. Stink Bugs and Other True Bugs by Meish Goldish (6)
This title is a world book's Animals of the World book. Beautiful photos and explanation of the stink bug as well as many others.
12. Grasshoppers and their Relatives by Patricia Brennan (6)

This title is a world book's Animals of the World book. Information on the grasshopper and other related insects—very interesting.

13. Amazing Butterflies and Moths (Eyewitness Junior) by J. Still (10)
a look at the very amazing behavior of the animal world
14. The Life and Times of the Honeybee by Charles Micucci (8)
Answers many questions about bees—very well done.
15. Monarch Butterfly (A New True Book) by Emilie Lepthien (2)
Great information and pictures
16. Ants and Other Social Insects by Cecilia Venn (6)
This title is a world book's Animals of the World book. Great title!
17. Bees Wasps, and Ants by George S. Fichter (8)
This title is a golden Junior Guide.
18. An Insect's Body by Joanna Cole (5)
Black and White pictures and great information.
19. Poisonous Insects by Lionel Bender (2)
This book has great photos and will definitely appeal to the boys in your family! It gives information on the weapons that many insects have.

Video Suggestions:

1. Ladybugs and Fireflies by Schlessinger Media (Bug City Series) (1)
This video is done well. It shows an experiment where you keep ladybugs, they lay eggs, which then hatch into larva, then into adults. Very interesting. It is appropriate for elementary ages. Don't mind the seagull! He is pretty silly.
2. Butterflies and Moths by Schlessinger Media (Bug City Series) (1)
This video is done well. Did you know that butterfly feet have taste buds in them!?! There is an experiment which gives information on setting up a caterpillar habitat.
**Parental note: At the beginning there is an evolutionary statement about the age of butterflies.
3. Bees by Schlessinger Media (Bug City Series) (1)
Did you know that honeybees are the least common species of bees? Most important function of bees is to pollinate, not to make honey. There is an interesting segment about compound eyes and how they work. It was neat to find out about the pollen baskets that they hook on their legs. The WEIRD part of the video is that the beekeeper puts something all over himself so that he smells like a queen bee. The bees swarm him completely covering his face, yet he never gets stung! It is presented in a manner that makes it interesting, not scary.
4. Crickets, grasshoppers and their Friends (Bug City Series) (1)
This video was my least favorite because there is a section that shows locusts swarming all over the place and the entomologist group acts afraid. The swarms appear scary. Later, there are some clips of the praying mantis eating insects and it is also presented in a scary way. Why put this on the list then? Because there are some very excellent sections and I didn't want to overlook them if these insects are your child's favorite. You can forward through the scary sections. If your child is not afraid of insects, this movie might work well. Use your discretion!
5. Flies and Mosquitos (Bug City Series) (1)
This video is done well. It was very interesting to learn how the mosquito wings move so quickly, which is what we hear when they are about to sting us! The video shows the four stages of metamorphosis and shows how to watch mosquito larvae develop into adults. Good information is given about the diseases that houseflies spread. Keep them off your picnic foods! **Parental note: One evolutionary statement is given about half way through about halteres (part of the mosquito that gives them their flying skills).
6. Beetles (Bug City Series) (1)

Website Suggestions:

1. www.brainpop.com
USERNAME: risthailand
PASSWORD: Bangkok
Look for insect topics **insects & ants & honeybees & pollination & metamorphosis**
Go to Brainpop Junior to watch **butterflies & insects**
Older students may want to learn about **West Nile Virus & Lyme disease**
3. <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/butterfly/allabout/>
Learn how caterpillars and butterflies protect themselves from predators. Click on ‘what is a butterfly’ to see a picture of butterfly anatomy and the life cycle.
4. <https://www.insectidentification.org/insects-by-type-and-region.asp?thisState=Virginia&thisType=Bee,%20Ant,%20Wasp%20and%20Similar>
Virginia insects
5. <http://www.tooter4kids.com/LifeCycle/Stages.htm>
Great pictures of the life cycle of a butterfly
6. <https://www.insectid.ento.vt.edu/insect-id/identify-pests/adult/ants-termites/ants/index.html>
Virginia Tech publication on types of ants—Click on the different ants listed on the right side of the screen under **identify your insect** to see pictures.
7. <https://www.insectid.ento.vt.edu/fact-sheets/index.html>
Click on the different items listed, to see fact sheets on various harmful insects. The list includes “Christmas Tree Pests”, “Pests of ornamentals” etc.
7. <http://food-insects.com/>
Learn about bug food snacks from around the world. Yummy!
8. <https://kidsgardening.org/garden-activities-plant-a-butterfly-garden/>
Learn how to make a butterfly garden. Learn about what plant attracts what type of Butterfly.
10. <https://www.honey.com/recipes/most-popular>
Check out these recipes that contain honey! Fun kids recipes included.