**Insect Hunt Betty Darleen Horton**

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**NGSS: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants and Their Environment**

**Pre Assessment: What is an insect? Why do insects live in gardens?**

**Materials: a color chart of common insects large enough to show the class**

* **Gather the students in a group so that everyone can see the chart.**
* **Begin by asking if anyone can describe an insect. (many will think of butterflies, ants or even bees). Explain that insects are a certain kind of bug. For young children, the 6 leg feature is one they are ready to understand. Show the chart and ask if children have seen any of the insects on the chart. (everyone will want to tell a story about insects they have seen so the leader will need to use a ‘show of hands” rather than talking to save time)**
* **Tell students that we are going to WALK through the garden and hunt for insects. Some insects fly, some insects crawl or walk.**
* **If possible, divide the group in half so that each group has an adult leader.**
* **Show the children the sun dial and place a string at a point that is about 15 minutes. Tell them that when the shadow touches the string it is time to come back together.**
* **Using the garden edges as boundaries, allow students to explore the garden area looking for insects. The adult may need to point out some that students miss. Depending on the time of year, there should be plenty of bees in the area. Point out to children how the flying insects go from flower to flower. (good discussion point at the end of the lesson) Be sure to have students peek under the leaves of plants as well as check out the area at the bottom of beds as there are often arts crawling around where there is moisture.**
* **Gather back after the insect hunt and let students share out what they saw.**
* **Ask students if they noticed some insects flying from flower to flower in the garden. Explain that the insects are doing a job – they are helping the flowers make fruits and vegetables.**
* **Why are insects in the garden? Student answers will vary but the main idea is that insects are looking for food. Some insects eat plants while other insects eat smaller bugs and spiders.**

**Post assessment: How can you tell an insect is an insect? What are insects doing in the gardens?**