



Insect Shapes

Overview: Students cut out geometric shapes from magazines to create colorful insects that will be hidden in the classroom.

1. Brainstorm a list of how insects use camouflage. You can use the internet and books with pictures of insects. Try to find pictures of walking sticks, grasshoppers and beetles to demonstrate the wide variety of insects and how they use color.
 - a. Insects use not only color but shape as camouflage
 - b. Some use color to hide from predators, some use color to hide from their prey
2. Provide the students with patterns of geometric shapes of differing sizes. Assorted triangles, ovals, along with octagons and other polygons will be most useful. These can be cut from card stock ahead of time or use a stencil that contains various shapes.
3. Students will look through color magazines to select pictures they can cut shapes from to create an insect. See the pictures below for suggestions, for example, four triangles and an oval will create a moth. For young students you may need to precut the shapes for them
4. Paste the completed insect shapes onto an index card, card stock or thin cardboard. Once done cut it out so that none of the backing is showing.
5. Give the student time to hide their insects outside or in another room.
6. Once they are hidden see how many you can locate.
7. After 5 minutes let the student show you where any insects not found were hiding.
8. Discuss with your student how the animal used color to hide.

Extension: Do the same activity with birds, mammals or other groups of animals.

Sample Geometric Insects:

