

Ladybirds, Fire Bugs & Leaf Hoppers

Big World of Insects, Spiders & Bugs Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Biology

Synopsis: Several common insects are explored in-depth in this program. A variety of ladybirds, also called ladybugs or ladybeetles, are shown as they collect pollen and also eat aphids. These common insects are important for gardeners. Fire bugs and leaf hoppers are also shown as they suck sap from various plants. Students will clearly see the six legs and three body parts of these insects.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to identify the parts of an insect including the head, thorax, abdomen, six legs, wings and antenna.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to describe different kinds of ladybugs and fire bugs.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe the different ways these insects obtain food.

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Ladybird, pollen, hibernate, voracious, predator, succulent, greenfly, aphid, honeydew, persistent, leaf hopper, larva, ingenious, cuckoo spit, excrete, sap, byproducts, humidity, transformed, vegetarian, fire bug

Pre-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Do you have a favorite insect? Why or why not?
- 2) List some of the insects and bugs that you are familiar with. Are these insects helpful to humans? Why or why not?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe some of the different kinds of ladybirds that are shown in this program. Which kind of ladybird are you most familiar with?
- 2) How does the ladybird prefer to move around?
- 3) What do ladybirds eat?
- 4) What does pollen provide to the ladybirds?
- 5) How many baby greenflies (aphids) can a ladybird eat?
- 6) Why can't ladybirds fight off an attacker?
- 7) Describe the interactions between ladybirds, greenflies and ants. Why do gardeners like ladybirds?

New Dimension Media

- 8) What is cuckoo spit? What insect lives in this substance?
- 9) What does cuckoo spit provide to the insect that lives in it?
- 10) Describe the adult leaf hopper. How does it differ from the larva?
- 11) What do leaf hoppers eat?
- 12) Describe some of the different fire bugs.
- 13) What do fire bugs eat?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Draw a detailed picture of a ladybird, fire bug and leaf hopper. On each insect, label the head, thorax, abdomen, six legs, antenna, and wings.
- 2) Pretend you are a ladybird. Describe your typical day as you find food, and help a gardener by eating aphids.
- 3) Research the life cycle of these three insects. Find pictures of the larva of each insect and learn about how they transform into adults. Present your findings in a report. Include a poster that has illustrations showing the larva and the adult of each insect.
- 4) How many different kinds of fire bugs are there? Research this particular insect and present your findings in a report to the class.
- 5) Create a food web that includes these three insects, their food (prey) and animals (predators) that might eat them as well. Be sure to include plants and the sun in your food web.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA

A QUESTAR COMPANY

w w w . n d m q u e s t a r . c o m

680 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611

800.288.4456