



Insect Gall-Stars

Purpose:

- Students will investigate the relationship between insects, plants, and galls.

Objectives:

- In this activity, the students will identify different types of insect galls, match gall characteristics with insect species, and describe how galls play a role in insect survival.

Materials

Provided in Kit:

- Activity sheets

Not Provided in Kit:

Teachers must provide most the items required for this activity. The items are not included in the Insect Kit. We recommend collecting galls at Denman Wildlife Area,

Prescott Park, Emigrant Lake, and Mount Ashland. You can also find some galls on neighborhood trees and plants. Please refer to the “Background” section of this binder for help locating and identifying galls.

- Several different types of galls (1 gall per 1 or 2 students)
- Rulers
- Beakers for water
- Eye droppers
- Paper
- Microscope or hand lenses
- Utility knife and cutting board (for teacher use only)

Time Required: 1 hour

Appropriate Grade Level: 4-6

NGSS Standards:

4-LS1-1: Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

MS-LS1-4: Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.



Activity:

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place the galls you collected in boxes in the front of the room. (Sort them by type if desired.)• Set up a cutting board and utility knife on your desk. When students are ready to cut open their galls, they will bring them to you to cut.
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribute the activity sheets, rulers, beakers of water, paper, and dissecting scopes to each student.• Have the students select several different galls from the boxes in the front of the room, noting the plant to which each gall is attached.• Have the students complete the activity sheet.• When they have reached the point where they are to cut open the galls, have the students bring the galls to you so you can cut them open.• After the activity, place the galls outside under a tree, or add them to a leaf pile or compost heap where they can decompose.
Closure	Conclude the activity by reviewing the answers on the question sheet.

