

# How do Insects Eat?

**Gallery:** MBBY

**Course Name:** "It's Alive"

**Grade Level:** K-1

**Activity:** Pre

**Approximate Time Required:** 30 min.

**Title:** "How do Insects Eat?"

## Vocabulary:

Insect Names  
Body parts  
Head  
Mouth

## Objective:

Students will learn how insects eat, and explore some of the different ways insects use their mouths.

## Materials Needed:

Pliers  
Sponge  
Syringe  
Straw

Variety of food items:  
fruit snacks, cheerios, M&M's, pretzels, jello, pudding, applesauce, juice

## Procedure:

Ask students, What are some different ways people eat? Hands, forks/knives, chopsticks, etc  
How do babies eat? Grown-ups?

Not all insects eat the same way either...

- \*Some insects chew their food: (leaves, grass, bark)
- \*Some insects eat mushy food: (vomit, decaying garbage, etc.)
- \*Some insects suck their food: (blood, water, nectar, etc.)

Show the students the following utensils and explain that they are similar to the mouth parts of different insects.

- \*Pliers': caterpillars, grasshoppers, ants, praying mantis
- \*Syringe: mosquito
- \*Straw: bees and butterflies
- \*Sponge: flies

Provide students with the opportunity to use the utensils to eat a variety of different foods. Examples: fruit snacks, pretzels, M&M's, cheerios, jello pudding, juice, water.

## **Observations:**

## **Evaluation:**

Discuss which utensils worked best with which foods?

## **Modifications:** (optional: Gifted, Special Education, ELL)

\*\*\*Be cautious of classroom food allergies

Brainstorm alternatives and provide scientific names for different types of insect mouth parts. Ex. Proboscis, Mandible, Stylet, Labellum

## **Georgia Standards:**

SKCS1, SKCS6, SKL2

Source: <http://iitc.tamu.edu/lessons/lesson47.html>