

# Bug Bingo

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## INTRODUCTION

Bug Bingo was created for Conservation Field Day for third and fourth graders in 2010 and has been taught every year since. The challenge was creating a lesson that could be repeated eight times in one day in 25-minute sessions with each remaining consistent. Bug Bingo eliminates that problem. Bingo cards have the names of common insects. I have laminated cards with photos of the insects and basic information on back. Youth guess the identification of the insect in the picture and try to determine if it is a “good” bug or “bad” bug. We talk a little about each insect and the kids love playing until it is time to switch sessions.



B	I	N	G	O
Tomato Horn Worm	Assassin Bug	Carpenter Ant	Water Strider	Bag Worms
Woolly Bear Caterpillar	Scales	Ladybug	Carpenter Bee	Leaf Miner
Horse Fly	White Flies	*	Velvet Ant	Periodical Cicada
Mud dauber	Mosquito	Katydid	Boxelder Bug	Japanese Beetles
Honeybee	Cucumber beetles	Corn Ear Worm	Click Beetle	Hickory Horned Devil

<http://print-bingo.com>

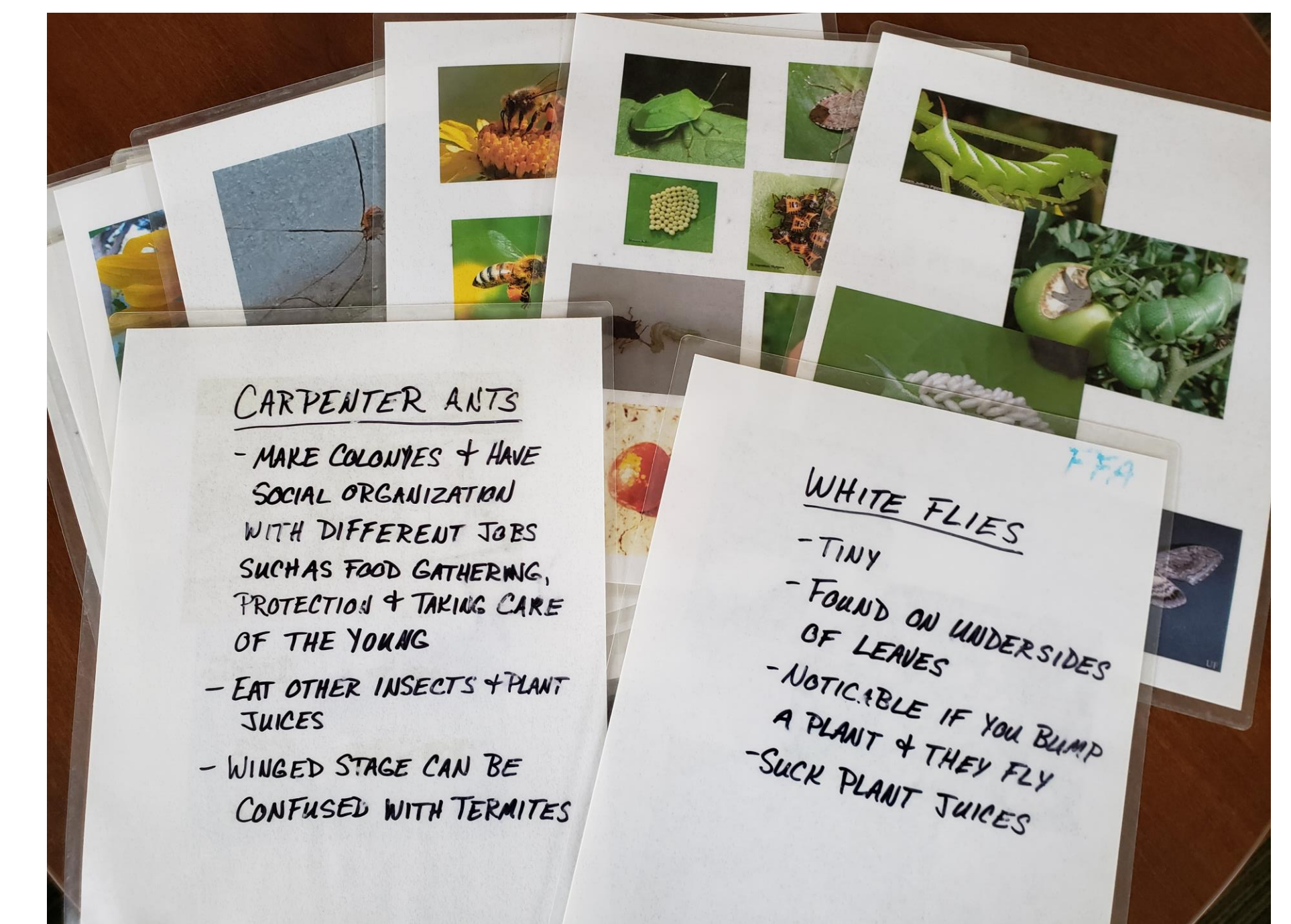
## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- List of 30 common insects
  - List can be changed to match the interests of the group and age level
- Laminated bingo cards with insect names
- Laminated cards with insect pictures and basic information about each insect on the back of the picture
- Dry beans to cover bingo squares
- Simple prizes of candy, pencils, stickers, etc.
- Easy for other specialists or Master Gardeners to use since it is all contained in one bag and ready to go
- In 25-minute sessions, typically play 2 to 3 games and make it through all the insects



## LESSONS LEARNED

The first few years, I let the kids use dry erase markers on the cards. Big mistake! Cleanup took too much time and the kids would draw on anything, not just the cards. Dried beans are cheap, easy to use, and do not require cleanup outside.



## PROGRAM IMPACTS

By asking follow up questions of students and adults, impact was determined to be:

- Youth increased knowledge of common insects.
- Youth know the difference between beneficial insects and pest insects.
- Youth attend Conservation Field Day for two years so I can see an increase of knowledge in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Adult chaperones and teachers learn as much as the kids, dispelling common myths about insects.
- Increase in problem solving skills. The kids will look at all the insect names to see if they can guess what the bug is. They also work on reading hard to pronounce insect names.
- Eliminates some fears of insects that might bite or sting.