

# KINDERGARTEN- FIRST GRADE

Life Science: Organisms can be described and sorted by their physical characteristics

Earth Science: The sun provides heat and light to Earth

## **Activity #1: Bug Catching!**

**Objective:** compare and contrast the little critters living in your backyard!

**Supplies:** hand shovel (optional), multiple small tupperware with air holes in the lid

### **Procedure:**

- Start off by asking your child what makes something living vs. what makes something non-living.
  - Talk about cells, and how living things can “think” for themselves.
- Go to a spot in your backyard where you believe there will be a lot of bugs.
  - Have your child start trying to catch some bugs and put them in the tupperwares.
- Once you’ve caught about 3-4 bugs now it’s time to compare and contrast them.
- Ask your child about what makes each bug unique, and what makes each bug similar to another bug.
- Have them group the bugs into different categories based on different characteristics:
  - Size, color, # of legs, the possibilities are endless here! This is a great opportunity for your child to show off some creativity!
- Set the bugs free! Then go to a new spot ( aim for an area that’s noticeably different than the first so you can possibly find different species of bugs) and repeat the process of comparing and contrasting.

## **Activity #2: Tree Comparisons**

**Objective:** compare and contrast the physical characteristics of different trees in your neighborhood

**Supplies:** paper, glue

### **Procedure:**

- During this activity you will be walking around outside and observing the differences between different leaves of trees!
- For each tree you find have your child pick off a leaf, or needles for pine trees (make sure to limit how many leaves they take off!) and glue it onto a piece of paper.

- Repeat this process and have your child try and put leaves that look similar on the same piece of paper. The end result should be a couple of pages with different leaves, ask questions about why they put certain leaves on certain pages.

Source: Charles, Cheryl. *Project WILD: K-12 activity guide*. Project WILD, 1992.

### **Activity #3: Leaf Art**

**Objectives:** get creative with leaves and make some fun crafts!

#### 1. Leaf Crayon Rubbings

- Materials: crayons, paper, leaves
- Set a leaf down, vein side up and place the piece of paper on top. Rub a crayon sideways across the leaf and the outline as well as the veins should begin to show up on the piece of paper!

#### 2. Pressed Leaves

- Materials: iron, towel, wax paper, leaves
- Put a leaf between two sheets of wax paper and place a towel on top. Press and iron down on the towel and iron over the entire sheet of wax paper to ensure the leaf will be sealed between the layers of wax paper. Once the leaf is sealed, cut the leaf out and hanging it up anywhere! Use several leaves to create a hanging leaf mobile.

Source: Charles, Cheryl. *Project WILD: K-12 activity guide*. Project WILD, 1992.