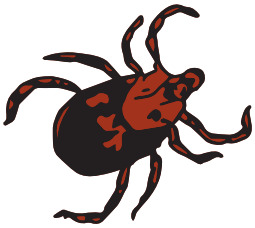
PLACER MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

WHAT MAKES A BAD BUG?

Behavior? What it feeds on? Looks?



In this activity for primary learners, students sort insects into 2 categories: mosquitoes and bad insects and those insects that are beneficial or not bad.

TOPICS

Animals, Environments, Sorting & Classifying

MATERIALS LIST

- File folder (Optional: Laminate the folder before use for greater durability)
- EVA foam or heavy cardstock
- Insect shapes, use mounted pictures or
- die cuts (die-cuts available at RAFT)
- Envelope (for insect shape storage)
- Permanent marker

STANDARDS

Next Generation Science Standards:

- Observations of Organisms (Grade K, Life Science 1-1; Grade 2, Life Science 4-1)
- Organisms and Survival (Grade 3, Life Science 4-3))

Inspired by Coral Clark (RAFT) and Debbie Long (RAFT)

ASSEMBLY

1. Label each side of the file folder (opened) with a permanent marker: "BAD" using words and/or pictures and "NOT BAD" using words and/or pictures.
2. Die-cut or hand cut insect shapes from EVA foam or heavy cardstock. The table below provides suggestions of die-cuts that fit each category.
3. Optional: Code the answer on the back of each insect shape so that students may check their work.
4. Alternate assembly: Cut insect pictures (or have students cut pictures) from old magazines to include.

Sample Insect shapes or pictures:	
BAD	NOT BAD
Mosquito	Dragonfly
Yellowjacket	Ladybug
Tick	Bee

TO DO AND NOTICE

1. Lay out the insects on a table alongside the prepared folder.
2. Optional: Sort the insects, making a best guess of where they belong.
3. Place the insects in the correct location on the file folder according to the "BAD or "NOT BAD" criteria. Determine correct locations via a code or verbal instructions.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE ACTIVITY

Different insects have different behaviors and qualities. "Bad" insects are aggressive and either feed on or are aggressive towards people. "Not Bad" insects can feed on "Bad" insects and will not harm people (except bees, only when provoked or threatened).

TAKING IT FURTHER

To make this activity more challenging for more advanced students, include choices that are unusual or might spark questions or conversations, such as a spider (with a similar body shape as insects), a bat (flying insect-eater), or an airplane.