NATURE'S NOTES
Connecting nature with music.

ACTIVITY #2: INVERTEBRATE INVESTIGATION

OVERVIEW

Some insects make noises, but that's not all—there are a lot of other things that make insects cool! And, you usually don't need to look very hard to find insects and other small creatures living all around you. Practice your observation skills with this invertebrate investigation!

MATERIALS

- Plastic container(s)
- Journal or blank paper
- Pencil
- Your favorite art supplies

BACKGROUND INFO

Insects have six legs, three body parts, an exoskeleton, and sometimes wings. But plenty of other small creatures that live all around us aren't quite insects. Maybe they have more legs than insects, or different body shapes, or no exoskeleton. A good word for these creatures is *invertebrates*. Invertebrates are animals that don't have backbones. This includes creatures such as insects, spiders, worms, centipedes, roly-polies, and more. Some invertebrates grow to be very large—think about how big a tarantula can be! But many invertebrates—especially the ones that live near humans—are pretty small. Many are microscopic!

Think about the sounds you heard in the **Humming, Drumming, and Thrumming** video. How would you describe them? What makes them the same or different?

A good way to observe invertebrates is through nature journaling. A nature journal is a perfect place to practice being an artist, a scientist, and a writer, all while learning about nature. You can draw and color like an artist, ask questions and make observations like a scientist, and write down thoughts and ideas like a writer. Once you've made all the observations you want, you can let your invertebrate go and have a journal entry that will help you remember everything you learned!

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DRUMMING, HUMMING, AND THRUMMING
EPISODE 3

INSTRUCTIONS

Check out the **Humming, Drumming, and Thrumming** video for a visual tutorial. Or, follow these steps:

1. Plan where you'll go to search for invertebrates: your backyard, a local park, a path by the river, or anywhere else that seems like good habitat! Don't forget to bring a container for collecting, plus your journaling supplies.
2. Begin your search by looking on tree bark, under rocks or logs, on plants, or in the water. Once you spot an invertebrate, gently place it in your collection jar. Move slowly so you don't damage its fragile body.
3. Now you're ready to start journaling! Begin by writing the date, location, and weather at the top of your page. Then, practice being an artist, a scientist, and a writer:

   - **ARTIST:** Draw your invertebrate, adding as much detail as you can, including labels if you like.
   - **SCIENTIST:** Pick one part of your invertebrate's body and answer a few questions about it:
     I notice _____. It reminds me of_____.
     I wonder _____. I think _____.
   - **WRITER:** Imagine what your life would be like if you had that body part. What would you do? How would you act? Write about it in your journal.

4. When you've added all the details you like, it's time to let your invertebrate go. Try to release it exactly where you found it—that will help it stay safe.

EXTENSIONS

- Investigate your invertebrate's habitat. Why do you think it lives there? What might be difficult about living there? Does your invertebrate have any structures that might help it survive in its environment?
- Try to find a second invertebrate to investigate. What makes this one the same or different? Does it have any of the same structures as the first one you found?