

INSECT AND ARACHNID COLLECTION QUEST



This quest encourages you to explore and investigate what you might normally ignore. To complete this quest, find 10 different species of insects, at least one species of arachnids, preserve the insects and arachnids, and then pin your collection. Once you have completed these steps, label the parts of the insects and the arachnids.

At the end of this quest, you will receive a “Critters of Texas” pocket guide and points to use toward the trade items at Texas Nature Traders.

STEP 1: Identify and collect 10 different insect species. The collection should include five different families of insects.

STEP 2: Identify and collect at least one species of arachnids.

STEP 3: Perform the proper procurement and preservation methods.

STEP 4: Properly pin insects and arachnids.

STEP 5: Label parts of insects: head, thorax and abdomen. Label parts of arachnids: cephalothorax and abdomen.

STEP 6: Bring in the collection to Texas Nature Traders.



FUN FACTS AND ANSWERS TO CURIOUS QUESTIONS



- What is the difference between insects and arachnids?
 - Mostly anatomical, such as: arachnids lack antennae; insects have mandibles and arachnids have fangs; insects have six legs and arachnids have eight.
- Can insects hear?
 - Yes. Insects use sounds to communicate and navigate their environment. Most insects have a pair of tympanal organs. In many cases, there is also a receptor on the antennae called the Johnston's organ, which also collects sound vibrations.
- Are insects/arachnids considered animals?
 - Yes, they belong to the kingdom Animalia.
- Where in the world has the most mosquitoes?
 - Alaska has the most mosquitoes due to the melting snow, which leaves large amounts of standing water – perfect conditions for mosquito breeding.
- How are the antennae used?
 - Depending on insect, antennae can be used to sense touch, air motion, heat, vibration (sound), smell or taste.
- In what ways are insects helpful?
 - Honey bees produce honey, silkworms produce silk and ladybugs eat pests.
- In what ways are insects harmful?
 - Some insects, such as flies, mosquitoes and ticks, spread harmful diseases such as Lyme Disease, Malaria and West Nile.

