

# How Insects Find Their Food: Can You Spot Your Lunch?

*Please use this checklist to confirm that all of the parts of this station are in this bag both when it is unpacked before the OSF Science Night AND when it is re-packed after your event.*

- Table sign, laminated
- Explanation/ What to Do sheet, laminated
- Blank copy of the worksheet
- ~1 ½ yards of patterned fabric with ladybugs (light green), dragonflies (dark green), butterflies (orange) and ants (purple) stamped on it
- 2 – My Chron timers

You will need to set up the Passport Question with Acadian Flycatcher at this station. It can be found in the PASSPORT bag.

The “How Insects Find Their Food” poster and a wooden easel should also be placed at this station.

## **What you will need to provide for this activity station:**

- Tape to attach table sign
- Copies of the worksheet
- Pencils

## **HOW INSECTS FIND THEIR FOOD CAN YOU SPOT LUNCH (Game 3)**

### **Explanation/Background:**

For plant eaters, or even meat eaters, using sight to find food can involve picking out the pattern of the food in a maze of plant and landscape patterns. To be successful, animals must have a successful search image. A search image is an image in the animal's brain of the tasty treat they are looking for. This food may be a kind of plant, an insect, or some other animal. Animals often use camouflage to hide from their predators. Since the prey blend in to their environment, the predators must use search images even more to find the tasty treat they are searching for.

### **What You Will Do:**

Illustrate the importance of having a search image to find food for insects and other animals.

### **What You Need:**

- Patterned textile with “search image” insects
- Insect worksheet with bar graph
- Pencils
- Stopwatch

### **What To Do:**

1. Hang patterned fabric on wall or on table for participants to view.
2. Explain how animals use sight to find food. Search images are especially important in finding the kind of food they are looking for.
3. Show the participants the different kinds of insects they will be searching for. There are ladybugs, dragonflies, butterflies and ants.
4. Give children the insect worksheet to tally the number of each insect image they are able to find within the allotted time (30 seconds-1 minute).
5. When time is up, the children may make a bar graph showing the amount of different insects they found. *What may have made some insects easier to find?*

# CAN YOU SPOT LUNCH WORKSHEET

Write down what kind of insect you see in the boxes of the top row, and make a tally mark for each insect that you see of each type in the boxes of the second row.

<b>INSECT</b>				
<b>NUMBER</b>				

Make a bar graph of the numbers of different insects that you spotted.

