

Description:

The contestants are to distinguish insects from non-insects, identify various body parts, characteristics, habitats, ecological significance, life cycles, and major classes and orders of arthropods.

Number of Participants: 1-2

Approximate Time: 1 hour

The Competition:

1. Participants will be asked two part questions at each of 20-25 stations. Depending upon availability, pictures, preserved or living specimens may be used.
2. Questions will include the major classes of arthropods and orders of insects.
Classes: ARACHNIDA, CHILOPODA, CRUSTACEA, DIPLODA, INSECTA (HEXAPODA).
Orders: Thysanura, Orthoptera, Isoptera, Neuroptera, Ephemrida, Odonata, Mallophaga, Anoplura, Hemiptera, Homoptera, Dermaptera, Coleoptera, Trichoptera, Lepidoptera, Diptera, Siphonaptera, Hymenoptera. The second part will test student's knowledge about other items mentioned in the description. Questions will be multiple choice.
3. Participants may develop and bring to the competition a key to aid them in answering these questions.

Scoring:

One point will be given for each correct answer. The last five questions may be more difficult to avoid ties and they may be tiebreaker questions.

Sample Questions:

Grasshopper

- A. To which order does this insect belong?
1. Diptera 2. Odonata 3. Orthoptera
- B. What is the purpose of the leg on the last thoracic segment?
1. walking 2. food gathering 3. jumping 4. mating



Picture of a feathery antenna of a moth

- A. What class of insects has this kind of antenna?
1. Coleoptera 2. Lepidoptera 3. Diptera
- B. What do we call this type of antenna?
1. laminate 2. club 3. plumes

