

(Making Decisions)  
**To Bug or Not**

Each day you make many decisions. You decide what clothes to wear, what to eat, what books to read and other decisions.

Some decisions are easy to make and others are difficult. In this chapter you'll get to practice making decisions as you learn more about insects.

## Sherlock Bug



**Activity:** Look for signs of insect activity.  
**Life Skill:** Making decisions  
**Entomology Skill:** Learning insect habitats  
**Success Indicator:** Identifies insect habitats  
**Supplies Needed:** Pencil

Insects are everywhere, but we might not know it because we cannot see or hear them. A careful look around can show quite a few insect hiding spots. In this activity you and a friend will be bug detectives looking for insects and clues to hiding places.

## BEEgin

Go outdoors and look for signs of insect activity. Decide what insect might have left each clue. Record the clue you found for each insect and what insect you felt left it.

### Case 1

The insect clue:

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I think the insect could be:

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### Case 3

The insect clue:

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I think the insect could be:

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### Case 2

The insect clue:

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I think the insect could be:

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### Case 4

The insect clue:

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I think the insect could be:

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(Source: Young Entomologist Society)

The heaviest insect is the African goliath beetle which weighs 3.5 ounces or 38 pennies' weight.



# Talking It Over



# Insect Facts

Share what happened

- How did you decide where to look for insects?
- What clues did you find?
- How did you decide what insects left the clues?

Process what's important

- Where are some of the main insect habitats in your area?

Q. What attracts insects to these places?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Generalize to your life

- What did you do when you and your friend did not agree on what a clue meant?

Q. How did you find out the insect you guessed was right?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

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Apply what you learned

Q. When are some other times you need to make decisions without having all the information?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Habitats

Plants are great places to look for insect activity. Holes in leaves, petals or on other plant parts may show that chewing insects have passed this way.

Look at the stem or leaves of plants for galls. Galls are large swellings or wart-like growths and are commonly found on oak and maple leaves and on goldenrod stems.

Draw the galls.



Find leaves of plants that have long twisting tunnels. These tunnels are made by leaf mining insect larvae that feed between the top and bottom layers of the leaf.

Find some old logs and peel away the bark. On the surface of the wood you should see some tunnels. These tunnels were made by beetle larvae tunneling through the wood. Be certain to replace the bark when you are finished.

Draw the tunnels.



## Migrating On

1. Contact a bug exterminator. Find out why insect habitats are sometimes destroyed. What clues do exterminators use to find insects?
2. In the summer evening, close your eyes and listen. What insect sounds do you hear? Record all the sounds you hear during three nights and report your findings to your helper.