

# Dr. Colin Brammer, Entomologist

North Carolina Museum of Natural Science

Podcast length: 15:34



## LESSON PLAN

### SYNOPSIS

The Walking Classroom's Laura Fenn talks with [Colin Brammer](#), a entomologist and coordinator of the Natural Worlds Investigate Lab at the [North Carolina Museum of Natural Science](#). Colin explains the characteristics of an insect and how they can be harmful and helpful to humans and the environment.

### VOCABULARY

Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast)

- **entomologist:** (noun) a scientist who studies insects
- **insect:** (noun) an organism with three body sections and exactly six legs
- **parasite:** (adjective) an organism that lives off another organism without benefiting the organism it relies on.
- **thorax:** (noun) the middle section of the body of an insect, between the head and abdomen; where the legs and wings are located

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

1. Dr. Brammer explains that all bugs are insects but not all insects are bugs. This type of statement is true about many things in the world. For example in math we can say that "All squares are quadrilaterals but not all quadrilaterals are squares." Can you think of some other examples?
2. Dr. Brammer explained that some insects have a defense called warning coloration. Insects like the monarch butterfly have colors that warn predators not to eat them. What are some other defenses mechanisms that insects have?
3. Dr. Brammer said that not all bugs are insects and that in order to be an insect the organism must have very specific characteristics. Why is it important in science to have specific categories? How is it helpful?

## BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Consider reading aloud or making some of these titles available to students to reinforce and extend some of the concepts covered in today's podcast.

**[Ultimate Bugopedia](#)** by Darlyne Murawski & Nancy Honovich

*Full of photos and fact-filled profiles this book is perfect for students interested in learning more about the world of bugs.*

**[The Beetle Book](#)** by Steve Jenkins

*Read about a beetle's behaviors, defenses, life cycle, and so much more in this stunning text.*

**[Bug Shots: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly](#)** by Alexandra Siy

*Vivid magnifications of insect parts and a close look at several categories of bugs make this a great read.*

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The following activities are ways to build on and extend some of the topics discussed in the podcast. We strongly encourage you to always preview videos prior to showing them to your students.

**[Insects and Minibeasts](#)** <http://bit.ly/1CrD8zJ>

*Series of Video Clips from BBC*

**[Insect World](#)** <http://bit.ly/1rtFdD3>

*Interactive Learning from BritishCouncil.org*

**[Classify Insects](#)** <http://bit.ly/1xGomyg>

*Science Explorations Activity from Scholastic*

**[Name-a-Bug Challenge](#)** <http://bit.ly/1IMg1RK>

*Activity from Scholastic*

After studying the bug's appearance, examining its scientific name, and reading about its characteristics, students create a common name for the bug, write a short explanation to support their reasoning and submit it via email.