ALIEN Egg Craft

Not sure what to do with all of those leftover plastic eggs?

**Supplies:**
- one plastic egg
- glue dots (or regular glue)
- clear tape
- googly eyes
- pipe cleaners
- multi-colored foam sheets or foam pieces

**Instructions:**

1) Grab a plastic egg and make sure both halves are closed together. Add tape to keep it secure.

2) Grab a pipe cleaner, tape, and the closed plastic egg. Tape a pipe cleaner to one side of the egg, so that it looks like arms. Bend the arms into funky shapes.

3) Grab some googly eyes and glue or stick them to the other side of the egg. Add as many or as few eyes as you like! If using glue, wait for it to dry. If using glue dots, get a grownup to help.

4) Glue or stick pieces of foam to your alien to give it extra pizzazz and personality! If you have foam sheets, you may need to cut out cool shapes to add to your alien. You can also use the foam to make feet for your alien to stand on their own!
FIND THE WAY OUT OF THE EGG
SPRING CLEANING

KIDS crossword


HCPLC.org
Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative
Discover • Engage • Transform
Elinor and her best friends Ari and Olive are very curious about bugs. They like to observe them through a magnifying glass, so they can see a bug’s features up close and determine whether it is an insect or not. When Elinor finds an insect, she likes to draw a picture of it and add it to her Field Guide to Insects.

Explain to your child that an insect is a special kind of bug (not all bugs are insects). An insect has to have: 2 antennae, 6 legs, and 3 body parts (head, thorax, abdomen). Not all bugs have these. For example, an ant is an insect (it has 6 legs, see diagram below), but a spider is not (it has 8 legs).

You can help your child identify an insect by asking three simple questions. A “yes” answer to all three questions tells you it is an insect. Identifying an animal through a series of yes/no questions is called a dichotomous key (see box below). Scientists use dichotomous keys all the time as an identification tool.

**Insect Search**

On the next page are pictures of different kinds of bugs. Guide your child to pick out the insects by counting the legs, body parts, and antennae. Some may surprise you!

**Assemble Elinor’s Field Guide**

Print out and assemble Elinor’s Field Guide to Insects. Follow these steps:

1. Get a three-ring binder or paper folder with fasteners.
2. Print out the cover, the two pages, and a few of the blank “My Insects” pages for your child to add insects to Elinor’s field guide.
3. Use a hole punch to put holes in all the pages except the cover.
4. Tape or glue the cover to the front of the binder or folder. Help your child write his name on the line under Elinor’s name.
5. Put all the pages into the binder.

**Explore and Record**

Now that your child knows how to identify an insect and has a field guide to record her findings in, it is time to go on an insect hunt! Insects can be found everywhere — on trees, under things like rocks and logs, floating on water, in the dirt, and in the grass. There are even insects inside your house!

Be sure to take a magnifying glass. Also, remind your child to bring her new field guide so she can draw a picture of each insect she finds. Keep adding more pages to the guide as your child finds more insects.

---

**DICHOTOMOUS KEY:**

**IDENTIFY AN INSECT**

1) Does it have 6 legs?
   a. Yes (go to next question)
   b. No (STOP: it isn’t an insect.)

2) Does it have 3 body parts?
   a. Yes (go to next question)
   b. No (STOP: it isn’t an insect)

3) Does it have 2 antennae?
   a. Yes (It is an insect.)
   b. No (It isn’t an insect.)

So, what’s an insect? A bug that has 6 legs, 3 body parts, and 2 antennae.
### Insect Search

Some of the bugs below are insects and some are not. Help your child identify the insects by using the dichotomous key on the previous page. Then ask your child to put a check mark in the magnifying glass next to each insect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insect</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragonfly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roly Poly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spider</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

PBSKIDS.org/elinor
Create a Butterfly Resort

Use some simple objects to attract butterflies to your yard.

1. Lay out several rocks in the sun for butterflies to bask on.
2. Pour water into a saucer and place it next to the rocks.
3. Make butterfly food by mixing four parts hot water to one part granulated sugar until it dissolves. Let it cool. Place a few cotton balls in a shallow dish and pour the sugar water over them.
4. Place the dish with butterfly food beside the rocks and water saucer.

Spot Differences Between Butterflies and Moths

Moths
- Fuzzy antennae
- Wings are usually down when at rest
- Nocturnal (active at night)
- Where to find them: around outdoor lights in the evening

Butterflies
- Long, thin antennae with bulbs at tips
- Wings upright and together when at rest
- Diurnal (active during the day)
- Where to find them: in a flower garden during the day
STUFFED DATES

This kid-friendly, Middle Eastern inspired recipe is a great addition to any spring celebration!

INGREDIENTS

• 15 dates
• 1 tsp honey (or to taste)
• 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
• 2 tbsp chopped pecans
• 2 tbsp crushed almonds
• 3 oz cream cheese – room temperature

DIRECTIONS

• Add cream cheese, honey, cinnamon, and pecans to a bowl. Mix well.
• Remove the pits from the dates – make a small slice big enough to remove the pit (have an adult do this part).
• Stuff the dates with the cream cheese mixture.
• Sprinkle the stuffed dates with the crushed almonds. Walnuts or hazelnuts can be used as well.
• Enjoy!