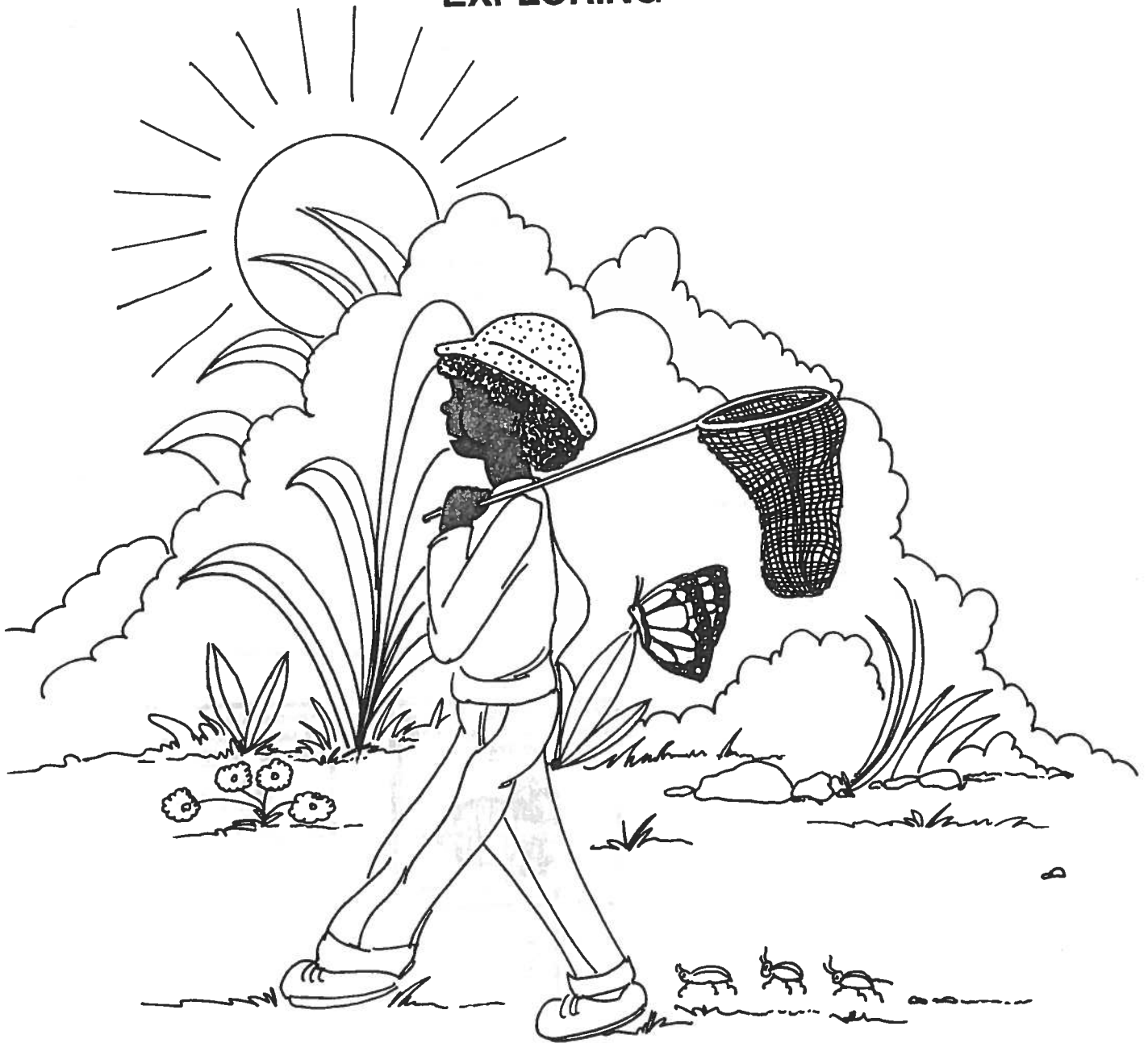


Module II
EXPLORING



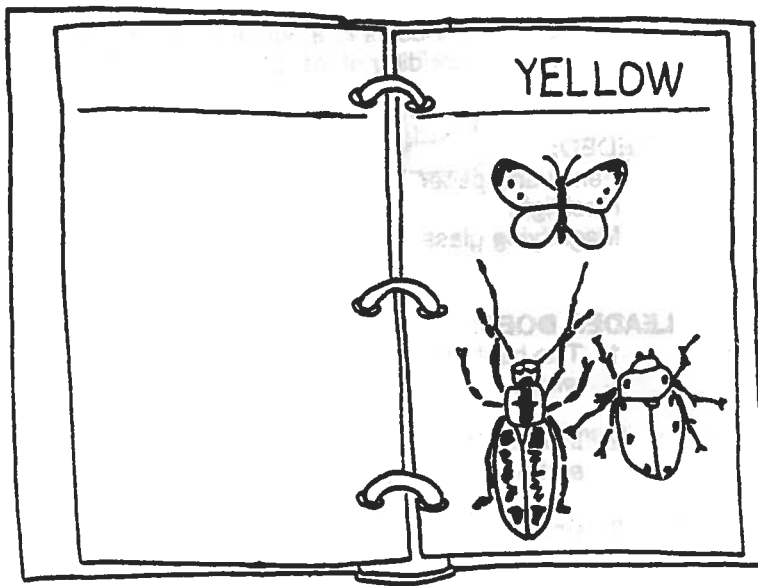
No two insect species are exactly alike. They have different colors, shapes, sizes, mouthparts and legs that help them survive in their habitat. The activities in this module help you understand differences among insect classes.

INSECT COLORAMA

Insects' color schemes fit them for their environment and protect them from predators. In this activity, you will become more aware of the wide variety of insect colors.

NEEDED:

Construction paper and glue
Cord or notebook binders
Paper punch
Paper and pencils
Colored pencils, crayons or markers



LEADER DOES:

- 1- Have members bring at least 20 color pictures of insects to the meeting. (Tell them ahead of time!) They may want to cut them out of magazines (look for pesticide advertisements), draw and color their own, or photocopy and color illustrations from books.
- 2- Involve members in discussing where they found pictures of insects. Explain how to make a scrapbook (read below).

MEMBERS DO:

- 1- Come to the meeting prepared. Bring at least 20 color pictures of insects.
- 2- Sort the pictures according to the insect's most dominant color -- all reds together, all green, etc.
- 3- Glue the pictures to the construction paper (see example).
- 4- Assemble in a scrapbook. Before punching the binding holes, mark the same places on each page to punch. Decide the page order before binding the scrapbook. Do you want to allow extra pages for GOING FURTHER (below)?

GOING FURTHER:

Allow extra pages in the scrapbook for insects you haven't discovered yet. Make pages for colors you don't have insects for, then try to find insects to fill those pages. Under each insect, write a caption explaining why its coloring is useful.

INSECT SAFARI

You can stalk insects in a house or a barn, on a farm or a city lot. This activity will give you a better understanding of insects' habits and habitats.

NEEDED:

Pencil and paper
Flashlight
Magnifying glass

LEADER DOES:

- 1- The best time for a safari is in summer or fall, though it can be done indoors during spring or winter.
- 2- If possible, plan a time (like late afternoon) that will allow the group to safari during daylight, and again after dark.
- 3- Encourage members to bring their own magnifying glasses.
- 4- Explain the safari (see MEMBERS DO). You may want to divide the group into pairs.

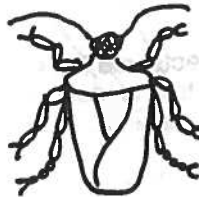
MEMBERS DO:

- 1- Draw a map of the area or room where the safari will take place.
- 2- Scout the area carefully. If necessary use a magnifying glass to find insects and evidence of insects (remains, eggs, etc.).
- 3- When you find something of interest, mark an "X" in the corresponding place on the map.
- 4- Conduct your safari at least twice in the same area -- once during the day and once at night using a flashlight. Compare your findings.

GOING FURTHER:

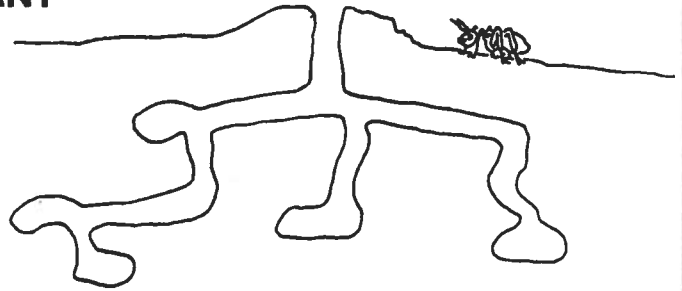
Write a creative story from the insect's viewpoint. Possible topics are:

- "A day in the life of a mosquito"
- "What it's like living in the safari area."



ADOPT AN ANT

Ants, like bees and termites, are social insects with a complex community life. This activity will introduce you to a social insect group in which all members work for the colony's benefit.



NEEDED:

Magnifying glass or binoculars (to magnify, use binoculars upside down)
Note pad and pencil
One ant hill in the wild

LEADER DOES:

- 1- You may want to have members do this activity on their own, studying an ant hill near where they live. The meeting can be spent sharing observations and viewing a film.
- 2- Caution members that some ants bite and are best watched from a respectful distance.

MEMBERS DO:

- 1- Locate an ant hill and observe it regularly.
- 2- Take notes and draw pictures of what you observe -- for example, food being brought in, territory defended, intruders repulsed or killed. You may want to use a magnifying glass or binoculars for a closer look.
- 3- Use captions to explain the drawings and write a short report about what you observed.

GOING FURTHER:

Find out about other social insects, and see if they have colonies near your home. Observe them and write a short report about their habits, comparing them to ants.

RESOURCES:

The Social Insects by William M. Wheeler. Harcourt and Brace, New York.

Films available from Bureau of Audio Visual Instruction (BAVI), P. O. Box 2093, Madison, WI 53701-2093:

- "Secrets of the Ant and Insect World"
- "Secrets of the Bee World"