

INSECT SEARCH



SUPERNOVA
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

EXPLORE DIFFERENT SOIL TYPES & FIND OUT WHAT BUGS & INSECTS INHABIT THEM!

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MATERIALS

- 1 plastic bottle
- 1 x-acto knife or box cutter
- 1 flashlight or a desk lamp with a bendable head
- 1 cookie sheet or garbage bag

20 MINS

PROCEDURE

Step 1

Using the box cutter, *have an adult assist you to cut the plastic bottle in half.

Step 2

Head outside, and collect some soil! Fill the top half of your plastic bottle (leave the lid on while you collect your soil). Take note of where you collected your soil from.

Step 3

After you've collected your soil, carefully remove the bottle lid, and place the top half of the bottle (upside down) inside of the bottom half. We are going to collect our insects in the open area of the bottom half of the bottle. Place your experiment on a cookie sheet or garbage bag in case it tips over!

Step 4

Shine your desk lamp directly onto the soil (as close as you can get it without contact). This represents light and heat from the sun, and will encourage the bugs and insects to climb down. Check back in a few hours. Make sure to release what you found back into nature!

TRY THIS EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT SOILS!

PURPOSE & SCIENCE OUTCOMES

- Insects play a very important role in soil ecosystems.
- Through burrowing, they aerate the soil, and as decomposers, they break down organic matter and fertilize the soil with their droppings.
- Soil is a complex chemical and biological community - some scientists dedicate their career to studying it!

ANY QUESTIONS? REACH OUT @SUPERNOVAATDAL