



21. Insects with brains and feelings

Requirements: large space to move and lie down; drawing materials

7-11 years: teacher-led class activity or working in small groups after an introduction by the teacher (individual school risk assessment for activity required)

12-14 years: in small groups after an introduction by the teacher (individual school risk assessment for activity required)

Curriculum: Science (living organisms; biology); Art (drawing; expression, feeling and movement; observation); English (oracy); Citizenship (invertebrate wellbeing); Physical Activity (movement)

Time: 20-30 minutes

Everyone choose an insect they will 'be' in this exercise and spread out so each of you has at least 2m² of individual space. Imagine you are this invertebrate – a thinking and feeling ('sentient') being.

- Adopt a movement typical of the invertebrate you have chosen
- Use this movement to take you from your standing state to lying on the floor
- Spend 5 minutes thinking about and discussing what the world looks like from the floor, and what this tells you about how your invertebrate might view the world
- Go back to the classroom and produce an artwork showing the world from the viewpoint of your chosen invertebrate



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Championing solutions to improve invertebrate biodiversity and wellbeing, now and in the future

Teacher Notes

Scientists from the fields of entomology, invertebrate welfare, cognition, neurobiology, invertebrate veterinary medicine, animal welfare science, and philosophy have undertaken significant research into the biology, sentience, and welfare of insects. They have determined overwhelming evidence that insects think and feel (are sentient) as with other animals. As caring human beings we should therefore pay closer attention to their welfare as well as recognize their critical biodiversity role in terms of looking after us and our planet.

In 2023, the [Eurogroup for Animals](#) published a [Scientific Declaration on Insect Sentience and Welfare](#) signed by almost 40 international scientific experts.