Science | Unit 2

Day 1: What is an insect?

An insect is a kind of animal. A typical adult insect has three main body parts: a head, a thorax, and an abdomen. It has six legs. Its legs attach to the thorax, the middle body part. Many adult insects have wings, but some do not.

A butterfly, a beetle, and an ant are insects. A spider is not an insect. A spider has eight legs, not six. Look at more than one feature when you identify an animal.

Observe safely. Look from a distance, and ask an adult to help. Do not touch an unknown insect or spider.

Science | Unit 2

Day 1: What is an insect?

Practice: Questions 1–4. Read the lesson first.

1. How many main body parts does a typical adult insect have?

2. Name the three main body parts.

3. How many legs does a typical adult insect have?

4. Which body part holds the legs?

Science | Unit 2

Day 1: What is an insect?

Practice: Questions 5–8. Read the lesson first.

5. Name one insect.

6. How many legs does a spider have?

7. Is a spider an insect?

8. What should you do before touching an unknown insect?

Science | Unit 2

Day 2: Body parts and senses

An insect’s head has a pair of antennae. Antennae help an insect sense its surroundings. The head also has eyes and mouthparts. Different insects have different kinds of mouthparts.

The thorax is the middle part of an insect’s body. The six legs attach there. When an adult insect has wings, the wings also attach to the thorax. The abdomen is the back main body region.

Try this: Draw an imaginary adult insect. Make a head, thorax, and abdomen. Add six legs to the thorax and a pair of antennae to the head. Your drawing is a model, not a real insect.

Science | Unit 2

Day 2: Body parts and senses

Practice: Questions 1–4. Read the lesson first.

1. What helps an insect sense its surroundings?

2. Where are the antennae?

3. How many antennae make a pair?

4. What is the middle body part called?

Science | Unit 2

Day 2: Body parts and senses

Practice: Questions 5–8. Read the lesson first.

5. Where do the six legs attach?

6. Where do wings attach when present?

7. What is the back main body region called?

8. Is an imaginary drawing a real insect or a model?

Science | Unit 2

Day 3: A butterfly changes

A butterfly goes through four main stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult butterfly. A caterpillar is also called a larva. A chrysalis is the butterfly’s pupa stage. The butterfly changes as it develops.

Put the stages in order: egg first, then caterpillar, then chrysalis, then adult butterfly. A caterpillar and an adult butterfly look different. Do not assume every insect has the same life cycle.

Think about a model made with four drawings. It can show the order of stages, but it cannot show every change happening inside a chrysalis.

Science | Unit 2

Day 3: A butterfly changes

Practice: Questions 1–4. Read the lesson first.

1. What is the first stage?

2. What hatches from the egg?

3. What is another name for the caterpillar stage?

4. What is the butterfly pupa called?

Science | Unit 2

Day 3: A butterfly changes

Practice: Questions 5–8. Read the lesson first.

5. Which stage comes after the chrysalis?

6. Put in order: adult, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis.

7. Do a caterpillar and adult butterfly look the same?

8. Name one thing a four-picture model cannot show well.

Science | Unit 2

Day 4: Observe and record

An observation is something you notice using your senses or a tool. “The insect has six legs” is an observation if you can see the legs. “The insect is hungry” is a guess unless you have evidence for it. A careful scientist tells the difference.

Imagine a student sees a beetle on a leaf. The student can record the beetle’s color and count its visible legs. The student should not claim to know what the beetle ate unless that was observed or supported by other evidence. This is an imaginary example, not a real observation.

With an adult, look at a picture of an insect or observe from a safe distance. Draw what you actually see. Do not touch unknown animals, and do not make up a measurement.

Science | Unit 2

Day 4: Observe and record

Practice: Questions 1–4. Read the lesson first.

1. What is an observation?

2. Is “I see six legs” an observation if the legs are visible?

3. Is “the insect is hungry” directly visible?

4. In the imaginary example, where is the beetle?

Science | Unit 2

Day 4: Observe and record

Practice: Questions 5–8. Read the lesson first.

5. Name one detail the student could record.

6. Is the beetle example a real observation?

7. Should you touch an unknown insect?

8. Why should you avoid making up measurements?

Science | Unit 2

Day 5: Independent science check

Remember the insect body parts and the butterfly life cycle. Answer from the lessons. A grown-up may read directions aloud without giving answers.

Science | Unit 2

Day 5: Independent science check

Practice: Questions 1–4. Read the lesson first.

1. How many legs does a typical adult insect have?

2. Name the three main body parts.

3. Where do the legs attach?

4. How many legs does a spider have?

Science | Unit 2

Day 5: Independent science check

Practice: Questions 5–8. Read the lesson first.

5. Is a spider an insect?

6. Which comes first for a butterfly: egg or adult?

7. What comes after caterpillar and before adult?

8. Give one safe way to observe an insect.