

Mini-beasts

God is a Wise Creator / God is Life (Creation Day 6)

Spiritual Awareness

God created mini-beasts after their own kind, on day 6 along with other land animals.

The instinctive habits of mini-beasts teach us valuable lessons in life. We see community insects, working together with cooperation, serving one another with willingness. We see the ant with its wisdom to store food during plentiful times. We see the spider with its unique ability to spin a web, with patience and perseverance.

Through the creation, God shows us the wisdom of ordered communities. The community living of ants and bees are amazing examples to us. We see the implementation of rules, roles and patterns of ordered behaviour necessary for working together. We see the wisdom in distributing tasks, an illustration of how the body of Christ works together. The Bible says, 'Consider the wisdom of the ant.' We not only see wisdom in its social behaviour, but in the way it prepares for the future, storing food for the necessary time. This is an illustration of our need to plan ahead, preparing our lives for meeting Christ, as illustrated in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins.

Spiders teach us lessons in patience and diligence, in the intricate spinning of webs.

Our response to 'God is Wise Creator'

Because God is wise I will...

- Ask God what is the right thing to do, and do it.
- Listen to people who are wiser than me.
- Listen to my parents and teachers.
- Obey God's word.
- Do what Jesus would do.
- Ask Jesus to be the guide throughout my life.
- Treat God's Creation with wisdom.
- Learn from his creation.
- Be prepared for the future.

Supporting devotional resource:

Themes for Christian Studies 1 (Life): God is the giver of life

Themes for Christian Studies 5 (Wise): It is wise to be prepared

Themes for Christian Studies 6 (Patient): Patience and perseverance

Biblical references

Bible stories and passages

Proverbs 6 – the wisdom of the ant in preparing food for the winter.

Proverbs 30:24-32 – the lessons we can learn from God's creatures

Matthew 6:19-24 – Wisdom is storing up heavenly treasure.

Matthew 7:24-28 – The wise and foolish builders

Matthew 25:1-13 – The ten girls and their lamps: five were foolish and were not prepared

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – One body, many members. These verses show the wisdom in working together:

Exodus 17:9-13- Aaron and Hur supported the arms of Moses and worked together to win the battle.

Memory verses

Romans 12:4 –6 - We have many parts in one body and all these parts have different functions. We are one body in Christ, so we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. (GNB)

Proverbs 6:6 – Lazy people should learn a lesson from the way ants live. They have no leader, chief or ruler, but they store up their food in summer, getting ready for winter.

Psalms 150:6 – Praise the Lord all living creatures!

Job 12:7-10 – Even the birds and the animals have much they could teach you; ask the creatures of the earth and sea for their wisdom. All of them know that the Lord's hand made them. It is God who directs the lives of His creatures. (GNB)

Key Questions

How do little creatures know what to do?

How do community insects such as ants and bees serve one another?

How do animal builders such as spiders and bees show patience in building their homes?

What can we learn about wisdom from the ant?

How can we be prepared for the future?

How can we prepare our lives to meet Jesus?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- understand the diversity of living things and the families to which they belong, e.g. insects, arachnids, amphibians
- understand the role mini-beasts play in the ecosystem
- understand stages of various life cycles
- discover information about food and habitats
- understand the way in which some mini-beasts live in communities and the roles members play
- understand that mini-beasts know what to do by instinct, an attribute given to them by God, (Job 27:10)

Skills

- Observe behaviour patterns of mini-beasts.
- Make inferences based on observation.
- Classify mini-beasts according to families.
- Classify community insects according to their roles.

Values

- environmental responsibility
- curiosity
- working co-operatively with others

Activities

- Go on nature walks
- Search for mini-beasts in various places e.g. hollow trees, under rocks.
- Build a suitable home for mini-beasts and observe their behaviour e.g. earthworms, ants, caterpillars, tadpoles, silkworms.
- Use a magnifying glass to make observations.
- Classify mini-beasts into families e.g. insects, spiders, snails.
- Classify according to number of legs.
- Classify according to locomotion.
- Classify according to where they are found.
- Use plastic insects and spiders for classification and language games e.g. place the blue beetle under the red butterfly.
- Draw and label mini-beasts.
- Research information on habitat, food, homes, defense mechanisms, life cycles.
- Gather information using information cards that can be set up in work centres. Cards give information on community roles, mating egg laying etc.
- Draw and label the body of a community insect.
- Discuss the control of garden pests.
- Discuss the usefulness of some mini-beasts to man.
- Discuss whether biting and stinging insects were part of the original perfect Creation.

FOR COMMUNITY INSECTS:

- Describe the habitat and community behaviour of ants, bees and wasps.
- Make regular observations of ants in the school ground.
- Set up an ant farm. Use two pieces of parallel glass and fill with sand or fine soil.
- Make observations on food collection and storage, home building and maintenance, care for the young and injured.
- Set up sources of sugar or honey to attract the insects.
- Research community roles, mating, and egg laying.
- Record information.
- Draw and label community insects, including queen and workers.
- Observe the wisdom of the ant community in preparing for the future and discuss how this can be applied to our own lives.
- Observe the instinct used by community insects and relate this to God's gift of wisdom i.e. knowing the right thing to do.
- Observe the wisdom of insect communities in being able to work together in an organized fashion.
- Observe the serving nature of community insects, each member serving another.

Assessment

1. Present information on one mini-beast using drawings and text.
2. Submit a diary of your observations of mini-beasts.
3. What have I learned from the study of mini-beasts...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Link with Australian Curriculum

Science Year 3: Biological Science - Living and non-living things

Learning Connections

English: Read the following stories: *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, from *Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Wise)* and *Robert Bruce and the Spider* from *Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Patient)*.

Art: Make a giant beehive from hexagons; make paper mache ants or bees. Make paper mache spiders and spider webs from wool and sticks; or make 2D spider webs by 'drawing' with paper strips on a contrasting coloured piece of paper.

Mathematics: Count the legs of ants and bees, counting by sixes; discover the stability of the hexagon shape.

Thinking Skills: See *Creative Thinking Skills* on this web site – “*Community Insects*” (Lower Primary).

Related Building Blocks Units:

Living/non-living

Life Cycles

Animals – creators and builders

Additional Beacon Media student resources

See *Science, Social Studies student activities* for the following:

'Spiders'

'Community Insects'

'Earthworms'