

# The Bug Collection

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Peter had to do a bug collection for school. He was required to get several different **Orders** of bugs, and at least one **Species** of each of those **Orders**. **Orders** were groups of similar bugs, and **Species** were specific examples. There were 29 different **Orders** of bugs in the world, but most bugs came from four common groups, while the others could be quite rare.



He knew if he could catch about ten **Species** of bugs from four different **Orders**, he'd get a good grade. So, he went outside with his bug net and caught a Yellow Cabbage Butterfly almost right away! That was a member of the **Order** *Lepidoptera*, which included all the butterflies and moths. He caught several more butterflies and moths over the next few hours, including a swallowtail butterfly and a moth almost the size of his hand that had been hiding on a tree, blending in. He'd have to look it up in a book later to see what kind it was.

The second **Order** he found was *Orthoptera*. This was the group of bugs that included grasshoppers and crickets. He caught a black cricket under the rose bushes, and then snagged a big fat green locust flying through the yard. It was hard to catch that one, because it flew so fast.

*Hymenoptera* was the next **Order** he found, but it wasn't that hard. There was a whole anthill filled with fire ants by the back porch, and there were black ants in the driveway. Then he found a dead wasp in a spider's web near the barn. Those were both in the same group of insects.

After that, it got harder. He got down on his hands and knees and crawled through the grass, eventually finding a ladybug. Those were in the **Order** *Coleoptera*. He didn't find any other beetles, though.



He did find a spider, but that didn't count. Spiders were *Arachnids*, creatures with eight legs. Insects were only supposed to have six legs. Regardless, he could not keep the spider for his collection. He saw a dragonfly, but it was too fast, and that meant he didn't have a member of **Order** *Odonata*.

He got lucky and found a walking stick before he gave up for the day. That was a rare member of the **Order** *Phasmida*, which included camouflaging bugs like leaf bugs and stick bugs. It seemed like he'd get a pretty good grade after all!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does Peter have to collect for school?
  - A. leaves
  - B. bugs
  - C. flowers
  - D. rocks
  
2. TRUE OR FALSE: An insect Order is a group of similar insects?
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
3. TRUE OR FALSE: An insect Species is a group of similar insects?
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
4. What was the first insect Peter caught?
  - A. a wasp
  - B. ants
  - C. a ladybug
  - D. a cabbage butterfly
  
5. What was the last insect Peter caught?
  - A. a dragonfly
  - B. a spider
  - C. a walking stick
  - D. a swallowtail butterfly

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