



# **Keep on Buzzing!!** Entomology activities to do at school or at home

**Entomologists** are scientists who study insects. Some study how insects can be helpful to people. Some study how insect pests make it hard to grow food or cause disease. Others study insects to learn about the environment today and millions of years ago. Entomologists can even help police solve crimes! There are more insects on Earth than any other kind of animal – so there are plenty for you to study.

**At home you can:**

**Look for insects:** In the spring, insects are hatching, awakening from winter sleep or migrating back to Colorado from their warm winter homes. They are all looking for food or places to lay their eggs.

* Listen for high-pitched chirps made by a male cricket as rubs its legs together to attract a female.
* Look for white beetle larvae that are buried in the soil – they look like curled up caterpillars. They spent the winter underground and are now ready to eat, grow and change into adult flying beetles.

**Observe the table manners of insects:** All insects must eat.

* Catch an insect such as a grasshopper, ant, cricket or housefly.
* Place the insect in a glass jar with some food – try leaves or crumbs of your food. Cover the jar.
* Watch through your magnifying glass. What is the insect’s mouth like? How does the mouth move when it is eating? What kinds of marks does it leave on the food? Does it clean itself when it is done eating?