



Parks and Open Space Education and Outreach Activity

Insect Olympics Ages 5-12

Theme: Insects have amazing abilities to compete in the world.

Materials:

Insect Olympic score cards (one for each child)

Measuring tape

Pencils

Masking tape

Timer

Intro: How fast can you run? Or flap your arms? How far can you jump? Insects have amazing abilities to compete in special ways. If they were as big as we are, we'd never be able to keep up!

Body:

Set up an insect Olympic course ahead of time:

Grasshoppers—use masking tape to mark a starting line. Measure how far each child jumps and mark it with another piece of tape and write the child's name on the tape. Have them record the length of their jump on their score card. Compare this to how far a grasshopper could jump if it were our size.

Mosquitoes—use timer and give each child 10 seconds. Have the child flap his/her arms as fast as they possibly can (must use whole arms—not just hands). Record the number of times on the score sheet and multiply by six—this will provide how many beats in one minute.

Dragonflies—find a spot about 250 feet away from a starting point. Mark intervals of about 50 feet in between with twigs or rocks. Give each child 5 seconds to run as far as they can, as fast as they can. Record their distance on the score card. Compare this to the speed of the dragonfly.

Conclusion:

Grasshoppers have extra long back legs to help them jump amazingly far. Mosquitoes can keep their wings going extremely fast to get out of the way. Dragonflies are one of the fastest insects, flying quickly above ponds and streams. Insects are great Olympians!

--Deborah Price, Education Liaison, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, March 2015

INSECT OLYMPICS

Name _____

Grasshopper Standing BroadJump

___feet, ___inches



A grasshopper can jump 20 times its length.
In human terms, if you are 4 feet tall you
would be able to jump 80 feet!

Mosquito Wing Race

___beats in 10 seconds

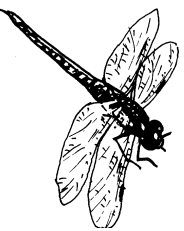
Multiply by 6 = ___beats a minute

A mosquito can beat its wings 500 times a minute!



Dragonfly Speed Race

___feet in 5 seconds



A dragonfly flies up to 35 miles per hour—
that's over 250 feet in 5 seconds!

INSECT OLYMPICS

Name _____

Grasshopper Standing BroadJump

___feet, ___inches



A grasshopper can jump 20 times its length.
In human terms, if you are 4 feet tall you
would be able to jump 80 feet!

Mosquito Wing Race

___beats in 10 seconds

Multiply by 6 = ___beats a minute

A mosquito can beat its wings 500 times a minute!



Dragonfly Speed Race

___feet in 5 seconds



A dragonfly flies up to 35 miles per hour—
that's over 250 feet in 5 seconds!