

# LEAF BUG PINNING



**Insects are everywhere, and there are many that haven't even been identified! The study of insects is called entomology and a scientist who studies insects is called an entomologist.**

**One way to study bug biodiversity is by creating a bug pin board! Some people and scientists do this with real bugs that they find dead, but we are going to do it with leaves and create our own bugs. Children can be inspired by real bugs or use their imagination and create a new species.**





## MATERIALS

- Cork Boards
- Pins
- Collected Leaves
- Acrylic Paints
- Paint Brushes



Middle Picture Credit: Heather Bridenstine

## STEPS

1. Head outdoors and collect some leaves. Try to find leaves that are different sizes, shapes, colors.
2. Try out different combinations of the leaves to make insects. It could be a one-leaf bug or leaves could become wings, different body segments.
3. Once you have a vision, start painting. Add fun designs, patterns, and colors.
4. Once the leaves are dry, assemble your insects on the cork board and pin in place.
5. For bonus learning, label your pinned insects.





# OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED LEARNING

Insects play unseen but important roles in our ecosystem and some provide us with very obvious benefits, such as products (honey and silk), protection from pest insects (ladybugs and lace wings), pollination of food crops (most common fruits need insect pollinators), and decomposition of dead organic materials. Learning more about them is one way we can protect these important organisms.

- Take a closer look at some insects that are common to LA [HERE](#).
- Head outdoors and do a Bug Hunt. How many different kinds can you find? Click [HERE](#).
- Watch this informative video from Learn Bright to learn more about insects [HERE](#).
- Science needs you! Become a community scientist on iNaturalist and help track local species. Sign up [HERE!](#)



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