When is a bug not a bug?

Action for Insects Session 2 — Lesson Plan

Key Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Recognise differences between creatures.
- Begin to classify animals into groups.
- Use their knowledge to design their own creature and predict things about it.

Starter activity	Resources
■ Ask students to come up with words to describe a "bug" — could be actual names, descriptions, what they understand as a meaning. Come up with a definition that is written down and placed on display. Return to this definition and revise at the end of the session.	"Post-its" for ideas. Large paper/board to put ideas on and final definition.
Main activities	
■ Use the insect images and ask students to group them. They can choose how they do that before discussing the reasons for doing it (useful words – 'Invertebrates', creatures without a backbone —they make up an astounding 97% of all animals on the planet).	Session 2, resource 1 — images of different insects
■ Use the PowerPoint resource to introduce the basic differences that scientists use to "classify" (group) animals. Make sure that there is an emphasis on the fact that insects are a huge family and that they are grouped together into smaller families (such as "bug") based on smaller differences. How close to this was their grouping? What do they need to change?	Session 2, resource 2 — PowerPoint of invertebrates
■ Using the "Design an Insect" sheet, ask students to complete the challenge to make a new species. Students need to think about all the questions on the sheet in their design and be prepared to talk about their new creature (and name it!).	Session 2, resource 3 — Design an Insect sheet
Plenary/summary	
■ How good was our original definition of bug? What would we say now? How would you change it?	Original paper with definition on it.

Possible follow up

- Students create a 3D junk or clay model of their new creatures.

Useful links for finding out more

- imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/research-centres-and-groups/opal/Invertebrates-guide--UPDATED-FINAL.pdf (excellent introduction to classifying invertebrates)