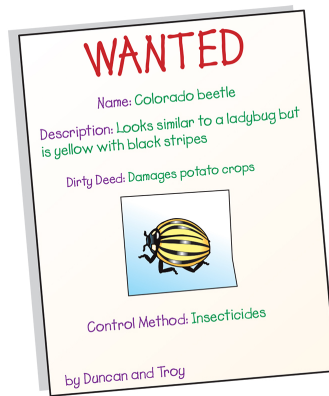




Pesky Insects

Writing Idea: researching insects

Challenge your students to dig up the dirt on pesky insects with this unique research activity. Ahead of time, list on the board the pesky insects listed below; then gather a supply of insect reference books. Begin by pointing out that although some insects are beneficial, others are pests that spread disease and destroy property. Next, divide students into pairs. Write the following categories on the board: "We Destroy Crops," "We Destroy Forest, Fruit, and Shade Trees," "We Spread Disease," and "We Damage Houses and Other Property." Assign each pair a different pesky insect. Then instruct the pair to research its assigned insect to see in which categories the insect belongs. (Some insects may fall under more than one.) Give each pair a piece of poster board and markers. Instruct each pair to create a Wanted poster for its insect. Tell the pair to include the following information on the poster: the insect's name, a description of the insect, the damage or harm it causes, and the methods humans use to attempt to control the insect. After all the Wanted posters are complete, have each pair share its work with the class. Display all the posters on the wall outside your classroom under the heading "Pesky Insects and Their Dirty Deeds."

Pesky Insects: *boll weevil, chinch bug, corn earworm, fire ant, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, locust, flea, mosquito, Colorado beetle, termite, German cockroach, aphid, Hessian fly, silverfish, carpet beetle*

