DIY Pitfall Trap

What can you do to help conserve insect biodiversity?

- Observation is key
- Go in your backyard or playground and see what insects and arthropods you find!

What you need:

- Two solo cups or similar sized cups (yogurt cup, etc)
- A shovel
- Styrofoam plate
- Chopsticks

Activity TIME!!!!

Pick a spot outside to dig your pitfall trap, preferably away from a lot of activity. Choose an open pasture or a spot in a forest. Dig a hole in the ground with your shovel that's big enough to fit your solo cup (or your cup of choice). Once you have your hole, place both cups securely in the ground so that the top of the cups are flush with the ground. Fill your cup with about an inch of soapy water. Using your styrofoam plate and chopsticks (or similar materials), poke the chopsticks through the plate and secure the chopsticks into the ground so that the plate hovers above your trap. This will stop rain from flooding your trap.

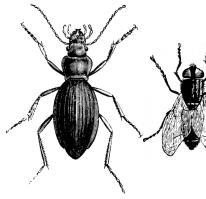
Step 1: Dig a holeStep 2: Place cups in holeStep 3: Place soapy water in cupStep 4: Position rain shieldStep 5: Collect some insects!!!

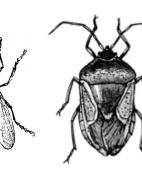


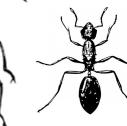
Time to Collect Data!

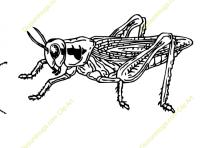
Now that you have your pitfall trap set up and ready to go, you can start observing what insects you catch in your trap and start collecting data. Check the trap every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for two weeks, fill out this data sheet and look at your results!

| DATE: | Coleoptera (Beetles) | Diptera (Flies) | Hemiptera (True bugs) | Hymenoptera (Ants, bees, wasps) | Orthoptera (Grasshopers, katydids) | Others |
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Coleoptera

Diptera H

Hemiptera

Hymenoptera

Orthoptera