



Time Needed

60 minutes

Materials You Need

Journal

Pencil

Phone, tablet, or
Chromebook

iNaturalist

FlipGrid

Things to remember:

Wear sunscreen

You might want insect
repellent

Check yourself for ticks
when you finish

Elon Explorers: Insects Eat to Grow

Overview. During this activity, you will gain familiarity with Claim-Evidence-Reasoning, and you will investigate the relationship between food resources and individual growth.

Today's asynchronous science activity:

Please go to a safe outdoor space with some plants. You will need to look carefully and patiently at many leaves to see evidence of feeding by caterpillars (or other feeding insects). Use your phone or tablet to gather photo *evidence* of chewing insects feeding on plants. You can also take photos of the insects themselves.



Evidence that chewing insects have been dining on these leaves. Photos are Creative Commons or public domain. Credits: *Top left:* Mukherjee Apratim; *Top right:* pxfuel; *Bottom left:* lppicture

Please collect at least three photos, of three different plants with feeding damage, or of insects feeding on plants. Upload the photos to iNaturalist. That way, you will also know what kind of plant and/or insect you observed.

When you have your three photos, post them in a flipgrid video, under “Day 1: Insects Eat to Grow”. In your video, please tell us your name, the place where you looked for insects (e.g. outside house or apartment, in a park), and then also tell us about each photo you took. If you are showing us a plant, describe the kind of feeding evidence you saw on the plant. If you are showing us an insect, tell us what it is doing.

To learn how to put photos in a FlipGrid video, watch this short video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQyrWqaVjzM>