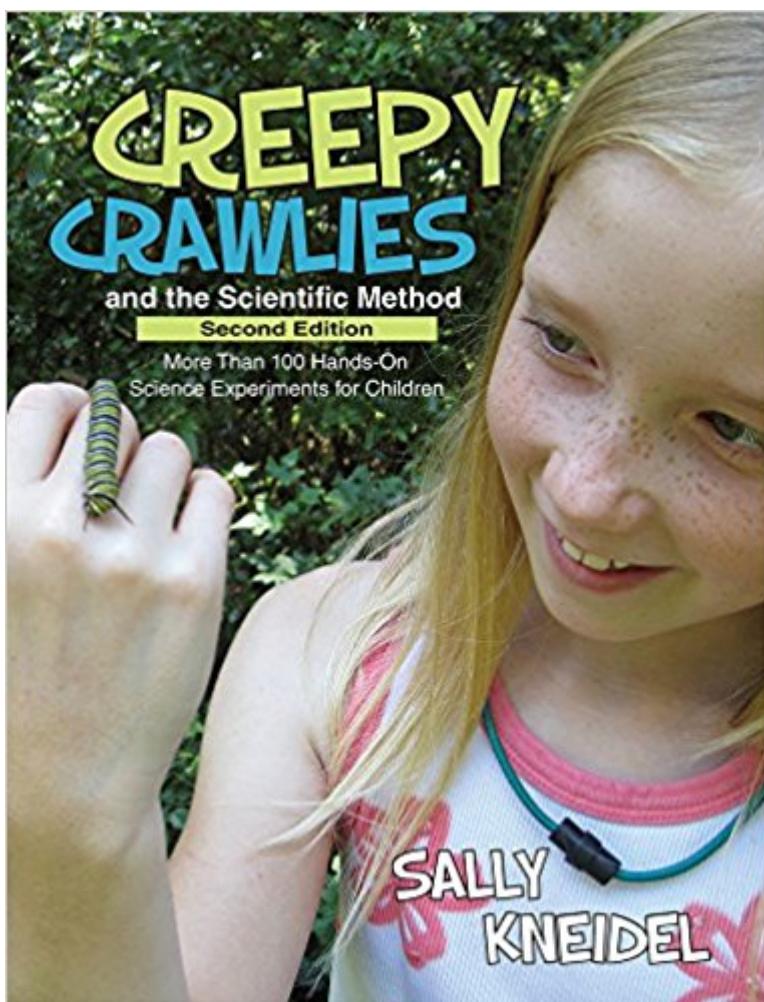


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Creepy Crawlies And The Scientific Method: More Than 100 Hands-On Science Experiments For Children



Synopsis

From monarch butterflies to hissing cockroaches, *Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method*, Second Edition shows teachers and parents how to use bugs, insects and critters to teach children the five steps of the scientific method: question, hypothesis, methods, result, and conclusion. Focusing on fun as well as education, and operating on the premise that doing is learning, *Creepy Crawlies* offers more than 100 different activities which will ignite children's curiosity while also building foundations for critical thinking and scientific understanding. This classroom-tested collection of experiments is a perfect resource for teachers or just an afternoon of educational fun at home. The second edition includes updated content and four new insect species: the monarch butterfly, the black swallowtail butterfly, the bessbug, and the Madagascar hissing roach!

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing; 2 edition (April 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1938486323

ISBN-13: 978-1938486326

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.9 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #394,574 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Butterflies #183 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Insects & Spiders #382 in Books > Science & Math > Experiments, Instruments & Measurement > Methodology & Statistics

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 4 - 9

Customer Reviews

"...quite simply the best science resource book I have discovered." *Kidsphere*"...guaranteed to tantalize....terrific choice"Deborah Zink Roffino, South Florida Parenting (Bacons)"In clear language, this book explains the scientific method....Sally Kneidel takes learners on many exciting adventures."Charles and Glenda Denny, Science Books and Films"...made me want to do science experiments with my students and had me exploring under rocks and dead leaves to find some of the fascinating creatures she profiles."NJEAA ReviewGreat Outdoors Buzz Book in Alaska Parent

magazine

Sally Kneidel grew up surrounded by woods and spent her youth befriending and exploring the small critters around her. While earning a PhD in Biology at the University of North Carolina, Sally's fascination with woodland creatures expanded and transformed as she learned the joys of field experimentation. Eager to share her enthusiasm and expertise with open-minded students, she became an elementary science teacher. Sally has now taught for more than 15 years and her passion for wild things has taken her to the rainforests of Asia, Africa, South and Central America, as a photographer, journalist, and educator. She writes on a variety of science topics from health to wildlife conservation and has won several awards for writing, blogging, and photography. The first edition of this book, and the sequel to it, were both named to Science Books & Films' "Best Books for Children" list.

Sally Kneidel says in her preface that "Children can learn scientific methodology with living things, just as well as with physical or mechanical systems. It makes sense to take advantage of their natural fascination with animals." That's why this is hands-down my favorite book of science experiments for kids - it's filled with *real* experiments, with hypotheses, variables, lab sheets, etc., as opposed to the "demonstrations" in most science books for kids. Forget the baking-soda-&-vinegar fake volcano, your kids can do real research to discover if crickets prefer damp or dry substrates, dark cardboard houses or light ones, hides with one entrance or two. How often do ant lions change the location of their pit? Are hungry ant lions more likely to change locations or stay put? Will mantises molt sooner if they are kept warmer? What if they're fed more? Does darkness affect the reproduction of fruit flies? Will slime mold really crawl over the side of a petri dish to get to an oatmeal flake??? These are just a few of the 100+ experiments in this book, which also includes detailed information about catching, housing, feeding, and maintaining your critters. Most of the supplies are things you would have lying around the house, and most of the experimental "subjects" are critters you would find in your backyard. Highly recommended for parents, teachers, homeschoilers, and anyone who likes studying "creepy crawlies."

This is one of my favorite books for plans to teach kiddos about the little creatures under our feet. It has great information for a variety of ages.

The one book for classroom science!

Who said science has to be boring? Kids love to play in the dirt, right? The dirt is FILLED WITH SCIENCE. Sally Kneidel brings a love of her subject — she's got a Ph.D. in Biology and has written extensively on the environment, natural history, and teaching science to kids- to this updated version of her book, *Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method*. She explains that everyone can find a creepy crawlly or two to learn more about, whether you live in a building or out in the middle of nowhere — it's all about looking under a rock, or between some leaves. More than finding and experimenting, Dr. Kneidel stresses environmental responsibility. She urges children and adults alike to respect nature, to be kind and humane, and to release our test subjects once we've observed them. Do no harm isn't just part of a doctor's oath; we all need to remember and take this mantra to heart. We share the planet with creepy crawlies, but what do we know about them? Dr. Kneidel knows a lot, and that's why we need to listen to her. Written more for adults that work with or enjoy kids in their lives, *Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method* has extensive profiles on various critters: bugs and insects — to give adults and children alike a background from which to work. She outlines the five steps of the scientific method: question, hypothesis, methods, result, and conclusion, and provides activities and questions that will stimulate fun and creative thinking among kids. Beautiful photographs and in-depth descriptions of various critters, including different appearances at different life stages, make this book a hugely valuable resource for any STEM library. Bring this book to your backyard, the park, or on vacation to learn science and have a great time doing it.

Did you ever think that having some Madagascar hissing roaches would be hiss-terically good pets to have? Probably not and undoubtedly most parents would give a definite thumbs down if you requested them as pets. If you read all about them, you just might want to learn more about them and actually snag yourself a terrarium and observe their behaviors. Of course that terrarium would have to have a very secure top. There are some ultra-interesting facts to be learned about Madagascar hissing roaches, including the fact that the females provide maternal care for their young. Go figure, motherly bugs! Now if you saw creepy crawlies like those Madagascar hissing roaches in your classroom, you probably wouldn't be at all surprised. There are a ton of things you can learn about bugs and critters of all sorts. Many kids have heard about black swallowtail butterflies and may have even read a book about raising them, but how about bessbugs? No, not bedbugs, bessbugs. They really are beautiful and are sometimes called

patent-leather beetles because they're shiny jet-black like patent leather. •Collecting critters is one thing, but there are so many things that can be learned from them and about them. Chances are you don't live in an area where you can forage for Madagascar hissing roaches, but you might be able to find some bessbugs under a rock or rotting log. Of course if you're a city-dweller, there's always the option of ordering many of the creepy crawlies discussed in this book. Before you even begin, you'll learn all about the scientific method in order to prepare yourself for your journey as a junior scientist. Once you've got the scientific method down pat and understand the difference between it and a simple activity, you're good to go. You'll learn proper eco-friendly, ways to attract and collect your critter of choice. In this book you'll not only learn about experiments, but also many facts about those creepy crawlies that co-exist with us. You can select from millipedes, butterflies, aphids, spiders, beetles, and yes, those Madagascar hissing roaches. Do you think a bessbug can learn to travel through a maze? You'll just have to run an experiment using the scientific method to find out! This is an amazing hands-on book of science experiments children will love. I've read several books that have included some science experiments, but none quite as thorough and fun as this one. Sally Kneidel certainly knows from her work in a classroom and in the field what helps students learn. The introductory chapters introduce students to the scientific method and ways to attract and maintain them at home or in the classroom. Subsequent chapters are prefaced by an introduction, how to obtain the creepy crawlies of choice, material and housing needs, background information, behaviors, and other pertinent scientific facts followed by experiments. The book has numerous black and white photographs, line drawings, and reproducible charts and graphs. In the back of the book is an index and very comprehensible bibliography. This is an excellent resource for use in the homeschool or classroom setting. This book courtesy of the publisher.

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