

UniSA STEM Showdown

Presented by UniSA Education Futures

DON'T BUG ME

Name: _____

The STEM Showdown is a series of STEM challenges to solve by the end of the season. You can complete the tasks individually or in small groups (up to 3 people). Make sure you write all the names of the people in your group above. The student with the most tasks completed over the season will be crowned the UniSA STEM Showdown Champion. Good Luck.

Don't bug me

Insects and animals are very interesting, they all have different colours, shapes and sizes which enable them to adapt to their life.

When scientists are out in the wild, they look for clues to discover new species. They might use nets, cameras, or even tools to collect plants, insects, or small animals. Sometimes, they even take samples like tiny pieces of leaves or mud to look at later in their labs.

Once they have a plant or animal, scientists take a really close look at it. They compare its size, shape, color, and how it behaves to see if it looks like anything they've already discovered. If it looks different, they might have found a new species. Sometimes, scientists take a tiny sample of the creature's DNA (the "blueprint" of life inside every living thing). This helps them check if the creature is truly a new species.

If the creature is a new species, scientists give it a special name. The name might describe where it was found or something that describes it, like its color or shape or the way it moves - think grasshopper!

Once scientists are sure they've found something new, they share it with other scientists by writing about it in a journal. This helps everyone know about the new species and how important it is.

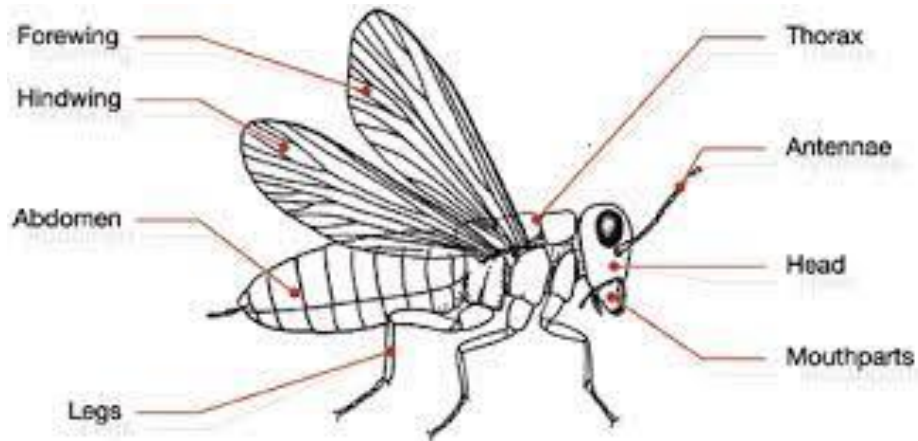
Are there any new species lurking in your classroom today?



Your Task

- Choose an animal, using the pictures on the 'Animal scientific names' chart identify the animal and find the scientific name that scientists use
- Use the classification table supplied to determine the common name of the animal

This diagram may help when using the classification table



Fill in this chart as you find your animals

Scientific Name	Common Name



If you find an animal that is not on the classification chart or the animal scientific names chart you have made a new discovery! Give it a name in this table below

Scientific Name	Common Name

Draw and annotate(label) your new discovery

STEM Showdown Umpire Comments	Completed (STEM Showdown Umpire to sign)

Extension task

Once you have completed the task you can try the extension activity.



Museums pin animals out so we can learn about their structures.



Today you can create your own museum piece.

You will need

- An insect or arachnid
- Small piece of plasticine or polystyrene ball
- Piece of polystyrene foam
- Pins

Instructions

1. Sit the specimen on your plasticine or a polystyrene ball to raise it off the foam.
2. Place a pin through the abdomen and the polystyrene ball and attach it to the foam.
3. Slowly and carefully use a pin to stretch legs into a life like position and then use the pins to hold the legs in position. Make your insect look as life like as possible
4. Leave your specimen to dry. The pins can be removed once it is dry.
5. If you want to hold your specimen be careful it will be fragile.



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