



Introduce the book and word list

Read aloud the title with children. Discuss what an **insect** is (*a small animal or bug*) and what a pet is. (*an animal you take care of and treat with love*) Tell them that this informational book is about different kinds of insects and how you can keep some insects as pets. Have children name different insects they know and discuss whether they'd like to have an insect for a pet.

Read aloud the word list with children. Explain that Madagascar is a country on an island near Africa. Tell children that **attract** means to pull together, like magnets do, and a **mantid** is an insect they'll read about in the book.

Guide reading as needed

Listen to children read aloud individually or in small groups. Use the questions to check their understanding of what they just read.

Page 4 Where are hissing cockroaches from? Madagascar What part of the page shows where that is? the map and labels What does the arrow point to? the island of Madagascar (Understand text features)

Page 5 What does **hissing** mean? to make a sound like "hiss, hiss." Why does the hissing cockroach hiss? to scare others (Understand vocabulary; connect ideas)

Genre: Informational text (science)
Key vocabulary: insect, attract, hissing, silk, blend in, mandible, handled

Page 7 What were crickets thought to bring? good luck What happens when a cricket rubs its wings together? It sounds like singing. (Connect ideas: Cause and effect)

Page 9 Why isn't a spider an insect? Spiders have eight legs. Insects have six legs. What is the name for the threads spiders make and use to spin their webs? silk (Connect ideas: Compare and contrast; understand vocabulary)

Page 13 What does it mean that mantids **blend in** with trees? They can look like part of a tree. Which other insects blend in? stick and leaf insects How does this help the insects? makes them more difficult to see, so they're less likely to be eaten (Understand vocabulary; connect ideas: draw conclusions)

Page 15 How are the insects on pages 14–15 alike? They're all beetles. [Children can also tell how they look alike.] Which beetle can bend its back to flip over? click beetle Point to a **mandible** on the stag beetle. What can it do with its mandibles? fight other stag beetles, pinch (Connect ideas: Compare and contrast)

Page 19 **What do the pictures show?** how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly [Discuss the steps shown. The caterpillar wraps itself in a cocoon. After two weeks, it comes out as a butterfly.] (Understand steps in a process)

Page 23 **What are pages 20–23 all about?** how to take care of insect pets **What does it mean that some insects can't be handled?** They can't be held because it would hurt them. (Identify main idea; understand vocabulary)

Page 25 **What is the page about?** the sizes of insects and spiders **Which is the biggest?** furry spider **Which is smallest?** an ant (Identify main idea; understand pictures)

Discuss the book after reading it

- 1. What does the book teach about?** insects and how to care for insect pets **What are some interesting facts you learned?** Answers will vary. (Identify main topic; retell details)
- 2. Look at the green and orange words at the top of some pages of the book. What are they there for?** to tell what kind of insect the page is about (Understand text features)
- 3. Do you agree with the author that insects do lots of neat stuff? Why or why not?** Answers and reasons will vary. (Give and support opinions)

Focus on an author's reasons

Explain that some informational texts present two different ways to think about something. In *Insect Pets*, the author writes good things and bad things about having an insect for a pet.

Have children look through the book for reasons the author gives for why insects are good pets, and then reasons why insects may not be good pets. There are lots of reasons on pages 1–3 and then sprinkled throughout the book. As children find reasons for and against having an insect pet, list them on opposite sides of a T-chart.

Review the list when it's complete. Have children discuss whether or not they would like an insect as a pet and use reasons from the list to help support their answers.

Independent Activities

- Have children reread the book several times for fluency practice.
- On Practice Page 9, have children draw and write about an insect from the book.

Practice Page 9

Name _____

1. The insect or bug I liked best was _____

2. Here are two interesting things about it: _____

3. It looks like this: _____

Directions: Draw a picture of the insect or bug you like best and write about it.

- Have partners read aloud the insect facts they wrote on the Practice Page and try to guess each other's insect.