Creepy Crawly Collection

This is bigger than an insect collection. Insects only have six legs. In this collection, you can have 8-legged critters, or arachnids, such as spiders. You can also have many-legged crawlies, called arthropods, such as millipedes. Everyone in your class can bring in bugs to add to the collection. How fun!

What you do:

1. Collect a bunch of bugs at home. And you don’t even have to kill them. You can find dead creepy crawlies in light fixtures, lamps and along window sills.

2. Line the box or bag with a paper towel. Place your bugs into the container. Bring all of the bugs to school even if you have more than one of some kinds, since you can give your extras to someone else.

3. Place a small ball of clay in the center of a cardboard square.

4. Remove a bug from the container.

5. Bend a paperclip to make part of it straight.

6. Very carefully spear the bug underneath with the paperclip. Try not to push the metal all the way through the bug; just push the paperclip in enough to hold the bug.

7. Stick the curved end of the paperclip into the clay.

8. Use books, pictures or a bug expert to find the type of bug that you have.

9. Use a pen or marker to label the cardboard with the name of the bug.

10. If you have more, mount a different bug into a new cardboard square with clay and a paperclip. Don’t forget to label the cardboard with the name of the bug.

11. Admire your creepy crawly collection.

What you need (per student)

- Dead creepy crawlies (from home)
- Bag or box (from home)
- Paper towel (from home)
- Clay
- Paperclips
- Small squares of tag board or cardboard
- Pen or marker
- Books or pictures for bug identification