

# Dance of the Insects

Becky Valls & Company

Grades: PK-5

## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

The study of entomology is made vivid through Valls' striking choreography, set to clever poetry and classical music and related to popular children's books. Dance and movement are used to express the metamorphosis of the butterfly, the social behavior of bees, and the characteristics and habits of a variety of other insects. Students also learn about insect anatomy and participate actively through creative movement and discussion. This program will help students see insects in a new and captivating way.

## TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) & National Dance Standards (PK-3)

Grade	Dance	Theatre	Science	ELA	Math	The Students Will:
PK	Std. 8		PK.9, VI.B2	IV.D1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret intent and meaning in an artistic dance work.</li> <li>Interpret characters using the voice and body expressively and create dramatizations.</li> <li>Know that organisms have characteristics that help them survive and can describe patterns, cycles, systems and relationships within the environments.</li> <li>Investigate and record some of the unique stages that insects undergo during their life cycle.</li> <li>Write stories and poems to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas.</li> <li>Communicate mathematical ideas, reasoning, and their implications using multiple representations, including graphs.</li> </ul>
K	Std. 8	K.2	K.9, K.10	K.14	K.1	
1	Std. 8	1.2	1.9, 1.10	1.18	1.1	
2	Std. 8	2.2	2.9, 2.10	2.18	2.1	
3	Std. 8	3.2	3.9, 3.10	3.18	3.15	

## STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Subject	Grade Level	Reporting Category	The Students Will:
Science	5	Category 4	Demonstrate an understanding of the structures and functions of living organisms and their interdependence on each other and their environment.

## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

<b>Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Head—the first section of an insect	Ant—a social insect noted for strength and hard work
Thorax—the middle section of an insect	Caterpillar—the worm-like larva of the butterfly or moth
Abdomen—the rear section of an insect	Cocoon/chrysalis—the envelope in which the caterpillar changes into a butterfly or moth
Legs—each insect has three pair	Lantern—a lamp with a transparent case
Wings—some insects have one or two pairs	Ladybug—an insect that eats aphids, animals that can destroy plants and gardens
Mandibles—the "jaws" of an insect	Metamorphosis—changing from one body form to another
Antennae—long appendages on the insect's head, sensitive to touch and taste	Worker Bees—the bees that find flowers and report back, gather pollen/nectar to make honey, guard the honey, and fan the beeswax to keep it from melting ; most are female
Exoskeleton—the hard body of the insect that serves as protection	

## CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

### ***Before the performance:***

Make a "word web" to find out what students already know about insects and their characteristics.  
Read about insects in reference materials.

### ***After the performance:***

Discuss the performance.  
Draw, dance, act out, or sing about your favorite insect.  
Choral read a story or poem about an insect.

### ***Language Arts:***

- Create a poem or song entitled "I am a Butterfly."
- Act out the process of metamorphosis. As a group, write a script, appoint a narrator, make costumes, and add some excitement by including predators, such as spiders, wasps, lizards and birds. After rehearsals, videotape your performance.
- Write and illustrate a narrative of the life of an insect. Choose an insect character and setting to write from that insect's point of view.
- Pretend to be a flower that a bee is buzzing around for nectar and pollen. Interview him as he buzzes around and lands on you. You could wear a hat with artificial flowers on it and a bee swarming overhead connected to little thin wires.
- Go outside with your class and observe a bug -- its features, surroundings, and fellow friends. Write a story about where the bug is coming from and where it's going.

**Math:**

- Write an original math word problem about insects.
- Estimate and then count the number of insects in a photo or drawing.
- Go on the playground with your class to find, record, sketch, and identify a variety of insects. Create charts based on how many of each kind of insect you find. Explain your charts to the class.
- Ask your classmates the names of their favorite creepy crawly creatures. Make a bar graph on poster board of your classmates' responses. Decorate the graph with drawings of the creatures represented.

**Social Studies:**

- Compare bees, ants and other social insects to human beings. What are the differences in our roles, interactions, societies, ways we communicate?
- Talk about the ways that insects work together. Ants have different roles; bees have different roles. Make headbands decorated as either insect, ant or bee, with the roles written on them. Wear the headbands and role play what these animals do.
- Research the geography of different kinds of insects.

**Science:**

- Play Bug Charades. Draw a card out of a hat. Each card will have a picture of an organism on it. Act out features of the organism, while the other children guess what organism you are.
- Make Critter Mobiles. Gather an assortment of organisms copied onto card stock, one each of all of the organisms that have been learned. Color the critters, and cut them out. Glue critter cards onto string and attach the string onto a wire hanger, or other mobile base, to create a critter mobile.
- Build a Bug. Research, design and build a model of a giant insect or spider.
- Play "Draw an Insect" Game. Each pair or team has a die (single dice) or a spinner with 6 numbers and a list:
  1. Head
  2. Thorax
  3. Abdomen
  4. Antenna or Wing
  5. Eye or Mouth
  6. Leg

Each person has a piece of paper. When a player tosses or spins a number, he can draw one of the appropriate part/parts. If he already has a part, head for example, he misses a turn. He has to get two antennae, six legs and so on. The first to finish his insect is the winner.

## RESOURCES

<b>Books</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar.</i> Carle, Eric. (1969) NY: Scholastic.</li> <li>• <i>Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices.</i> Fleischman, Paul. (1989) HarperCollins Children's Books.</li> </ul>
<b>Recordings</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Flight of the Bumblebee.</i> Rimsky-Korsakov.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Websites</b>
<a href="http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/games/bugs/index.htm">http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/games/bugs/index.htm</a> <a href="http://sciencespot.net/Pages/adinspg.html">http://sciencespot.net/Pages/adinspg.html</a> <a href="http://www.pedagonet.com/fun/flashgame243.htm">http://www.pedagonet.com/fun/flashgame243.htm</a> <a href="http://www.pedagonet.com/Insectclopedia/lsplns.html">http://www.pedagonet.com/Insectclopedia/lsplns.html</a> <a href="http://iitc.tamu.edu/lesson_plans.html">http://iitc.tamu.edu/lesson_plans.html</a> <a href="http://themes.atozteacherstuff.com/753/insects-theme-activities-and-teaching-ideas/">http://themes.atozteacherstuff.com/753/insects-theme-activities-and-teaching-ideas/</a> <a href="http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/october/bugs.html">http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/october/bugs.html</a> <a href="http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/insects.shtml">http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/insects.shtml</a>
<b>Smartboard Links</b>
<a href="http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=%22bugs%22">http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=%22bugs%22</a> <a href="http://teacher.scholastic.com/whiteboards/sciencemath.htm">http://teacher.scholastic.com/whiteboards/sciencemath.htm</a>

## ABOUT THE ARTIST / ENSEMBLE:

Rebecca Valls, MFA, is the Director of Dance Programs at Rice University and is Director of Rice Dance Theatre, a performing company. She teaches core dance courses at the University of Houston, including a class for education majors, and has 20 years' experience as a teaching artist. She is director and choreographer of Becky Valls and Company, a performing group that includes Toni Valle, John Box and Jenny Magill. Ms. Valls has also been commissioned to set choreography for dance companies throughout Houston. She is the recipient of the Ross M. Lence Teaching Award in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (2013).