Build a Bug

Materials:

- Different-sized styrofoam balls
- Wooden skewers
- Different coloured paint
- Paintbrushes
- Water cups
- Pie plate or paint tray
- Googly eyes
- Hot glue gun
- Permanent marker
- Newspaper or something else to protect the working surface
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors

Procedure: (Sharing Inspiration) Building a bug is a craft often done after learning about the different body parts of an insect. All insects have a head, thorax, and abdomen as well as six legs.

1) First, the working surface for the craft may need to be prepared by placing down old newspapers or disposable tablecloths. Glue guns should also be plugged in ahead of time. Students start by picking 3 styrofoam balls for the body of their insect. They then push a skewer through the centre of the three balls to connect them and add stability. The skewer also makes a handle to hold while painting. Once the three balls are arranged on the skewer they can be glued together with hot glue (usually done by an adult). If the person leading the activity wants to, they can prep the bodies of the insects before beginning the craft.

2) Once the body is ready, students can use a permanent marker to mark where they would like the googly eyes to be attached. The person leading the activity can then glue the eyes exactly where the student wants them. Pipe cleaners can be formed into wings, spikes, mandibles or a proboscis.

3) Next, each student should receive a pie plate to put their paint on, a brush, and a water cup for brushes. Encourage students to only put the colours that they need on their pie plate, as well as only use small amounts at once. This helps later with cleanup as well as avoids needless waste of supplies. Students can paint their

insects however they'd like. They may want to try to make an existing insect or invent their own. Once students have completed the painting they add the pipe cleaners appendages by poking them into the styrofoam. Once the insects are complete they can be left at the work surface or in a designated area to dry.

Hints, tips and tricks: This is a great craft to wrap up a lesson on insects. It reinforces the parts of an insect and gets students thinking about adaptation and function.