

# Collecting and Identifying Insects

## When collecting an insect...

- Keep track of important information about the insect
  - Location
  - Date
  - Environment (such as under a rock, on a flower, or in a stream)
- Keep the information with the insect; you will use it later to label your specimen.
- Store your insects in the freezer until you are ready to pin them. This keeps them fresh and flexible.

## When identifying an insect...

- It can be difficult to know what type of insect you collected without help. You can **use a field guide** to help identify the insects you collect.
- You will need to **closely observe the insect's characteristics** such as...
  - Color
  - Shape of the body
  - Antennae (What do they look like?)
  - Wings (How many? How do they look?)
  - Legs (How many? What type?)
- **Think about where you found the insect.** Knowing an insect's habitat can help you identify it.

