A Closer Look:
This week with Program ENERGY, we learned all about insects! We learned that an insect’s mouth can tell you a lot about what kind of food it eats. We got to look at a lot of really neat insects from around the world, and then we pretended to be butterflies as we sipped “nectar” (100% fruit juice) through a straw!

Insects of Planet Earth:
It is estimated that there are over 5 million different species of insects on Earth! More than 900,000 have already been discovered and named, while new species are being discovered every year.

We tend to think of insects as pests that are detrimental to human health and the environment. However, most insects are beneficial for the environment and harmless to humans, and only a small number of insects can really be regarded as pests.

Insects can be classified by their mouths and how they eat. The three categories we discussed in class were crusher, piercer and sucker. Can you think of some insects that would fit into each of these categories? We’ll get you started. A butterfly would be considered a “sucker” because it uses its tongue like a straw to sip nectar from flowers. Now it is your turn!

Alan the Ant Needs Your Help!
Hello 2nd Grade Scientists! Can you help us? Alan was on his way to a picnic to get some food when he got lost. Help him find his way through the maze so that he can eat...he’s hungry!

Fun Facts: When ants find food, they lay down a chemical trail so that other ants can find their way from the nest to the food source.

Maze adapted from: http://www.delorie.com/game-room/mazes/genmaze.cgi

Family Kitchen
Recipes of the Week
Ants on a Log
INGREDIENTS:
3 celery stalks washed, dried, and cut
Peanut butter
Raisins

Fill the celery stalks with your favorite peanut butter. Place raisins in the peanut butter so that it looks like ants walking on a log! Enjoy!

Lo-Mien Noodle Spiders
INGREDIENTS:
1 pkg chocolate chips
12 oz can Chinese Noodles

Melt chocolate in a microwave safe bowl. Stir in the noodles. Drop spoonfuls of the mixture onto waxed paper and chill for 1 hour. Eat up!

Follow-up with your Child:
Ask your child about the three different kinds of mouths that insects have and discuss with him/her what kind of food insects with each mouth would eat.