

## Bugs Across the Curriculum (cont.)

***Note** You'll find blacklines for the praying mantis, beetle, and butterfly life cycle cards in Unit One (Blacklines 1.26–1.27, 1.30–1.31, and 1.33–1.34). These cards, along with other insect pictures you may be able to collect, will support a picture walk. Every year there are some excellent calendars with insect pictures. If you can find a source that sells them at a major discount (once they are out of date) so much the better. If not, you may be able to use a scanner at your school to scan some pictures from insect books.*

### What Do You Already Know? What Do You Wonder?

There is rarely a school year that we don't discover a student (or two) who is extremely knowledgeable about insects, bugs, and spiders. Nearly all of our students know something about insects already and it's important to acknowledge the facts they've learned, along with their experiences and feelings, by asking them what they already know and what they wonder. This might just be a discussion, or perhaps you'll take time to record their thoughts and questions on chart paper. (We display these finished charts to help children with vocabulary and spelling when they are going to write about insects.) If children give us incorrect information, we go back to the charts as they learn more and have them help us make needed corrections.

What do you  
already know  
about butterflies?



They like flowers.  
They have beautiful wings.  
They have 2 antennae.  
First they are caterpillars.  
Sometimes they're in our flower garden.  
The caterpillar is very hungry.  
Butterflies can fly far away.

What do you wonder  
about butterflies?



How long do butterflies live?  
What do they eat?  
Where do they go in the winter?  
Do butterflies have enemies?  
Do they lay lots of eggs?

### The Insect Fact Sorting Sheet

Once our children have learned all of the songs introduced in Sessions 1 to 4, we like to ask them to complete a fact sorting sheet, as shown below (Blacklines I 1.1–I 1.2). They cut the picture sheet apart, sort the information pieces into the appropriate columns, and then glue them down. This sheet serves as an assessment piece for us and a conversation piece for them. We save these in their work files for parents to see just how many things their children are learning.