



ASSESSMENTS MENU

HOW CAN I ASSESS MY STUDENTS' PROGRESS?

Sentence Starters

Ask students to complete sentence starters after each lesson to check for understanding. Sample starters include: "A pest is..." and "IPM is important because..."

Essential Questions

Use the essential questions from the lessons as checkpoint assessments throughout the unit. Choose one or two questions to check for students' understanding of key concepts. Have students write and share responses to the essential questions provided in each activity.

Quiz-of-Questions

Challenge students to demonstrate their level of understanding about key concepts with the Quiz-of-Questions. Invite them to create their own Quiz-of-Questions to challenge classmates. Have students exchange and solve their quizzes.

Portfolio Assessment

Collect samples of students' work throughout the unit. Have students compile a showcase of their best work in a Pest Investigator's Portfolio. Use these examples with the provided rubrics to document students' growth. Maximize your instructional time by utilizing embedded assessment opportunities from the lessons. Samples could include lesson handouts and charts students complete in class, projects created from Curriculum Connections, and Home In-PEST-igations.

QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/MULTIPLE CHOICE



1. What do all creatures need to survive?
 - a. Food
 - b. Food and water
 - c. Food, water and shelter

2. Why do some creatures become “pests” to people?
 - a. Because they think it’s fun to annoy people
 - b. Because we have what they need
 - c. Because they are a useless species

3. Which of these insects are usually considered pests?
 - a. Wasps
 - b. Lady beetles
 - c. Dragonflies

4. “Green” ways to prevent or solve pest problems are good because these offer:
 - a. Pest control without harming the planet’s air, water, soil or non-pest creatures
 - b. Pest control without harming people or pets
 - c. Both

5. What does IPM stand for?
 - a. Incorporated Pest Methods
 - b. Integrated Pest Management
 - c. Investigating Pest Matters

QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/MULTIPLE CHOICE



6. Some steps of IPM are:
 - a. Looking for “hot spots” and pest problems
 - b. Using green methods to fix the problems
 - c. Both

7. We can’t figure out how to get rid of a pest problem. Who should we ask for help?
 - a. A police officer
 - b. A pest control professional
 - c. The pest that’s bothering us

8. We already sealed around our doors and windows and repaired our screens, but new pests are still coming in. How is this possible?
 - a. They might be entering our space by traveling in school backpacks
 - b. They might be entering our space by hiding in grocery boxes or bags
 - c. Both

9. Sometimes we see bugs running through the house but we can’t figure out where they are living. Where should we look?
 - a. Under the sinks
 - b. Where there is clutter, like stacks of boxes and newspapers
 - c. Both

10. Wasps are often near our recycling bins. What should we do?
 - a. Rinse out food containers before putting them in the bin
 - b. Get rid of the recycling bins
 - c. Both

QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/MULTIPLE CHOICE



11. We see ants in our kitchen but not anywhere else. Why?
 - a. Because ants may be finding crumbs, spills and food on dirty dishes
 - b. Because ants may find open food packages in your cupboards
 - c. Because there may be a gap under the kitchen door leading outside
 - d. All of the above

12. "Eek... a spider!" Should I:
 - a. Trap it and carry it outside?
 - b. Spray it with a pesticide?
 - c. None of the above

13. Bugs are eating some of our garden plants. What should we do?
 - a. Use a pesticide spray
 - b. Keep replanting the same plants
 - c. Plant marigolds

14. My mom doesn't like using bug spray on kids because she's afraid it isn't good for us. What else can we do to protect ourselves from mosquito bites?
 - a. Wear long-sleeved pants and shirts outside
 - b. Wear clothes with dark colors
 - c. Wear perfume to keep the bugs away

15. Knowing about IPM is important because:
 - a. It reduces the amount of pesticides we put in the environment
 - b. We can learn many safe ways to prevent pests or get rid of them
 - c. Pests are part of the environment
 - d. All of the above

ANSWER KEY: QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/MULTIPLE CHOICE



1. Answer: c

Why?

All creatures must eat and drink or they will die. They also need protection from very cold temperatures. They need sheltered, safe places to raise their young. They can find such places inside our homes and other buildings.

2. Answer: b

Why?

When pests invade our space and take or damage our things it is not because they are naughty or because their purpose is to bother us. It is because we have what they need to survive and they come into our spaces to get it. The same creatures in their own natural habitat have a special role to perform. They become pests only when they are out of place or are unwanted where they appear.

3. Answer: a

Why?

Wasps are often considered pests because they sting us when they are upset. Lady beetles are not usually considered pests because they eat other insects that are harmful to our plants. Dragonflies are not usually thought of as pests because they eat their weight in pesky mosquitoes every day!

4. Answer: c

Why?

Green pest solutions control pests with the least damage to the environment and the least effect on the health of people and their pets.

5. Answer: b

Why?

IPM stands for Integrated Pest Management. IPM is a program that makes use of many different steps and activities to control pests.

6. Answer: c

Why?

IPM includes looking for problem areas where pests are getting into our spaces, and searching for places in our buildings where they can find food, water, shelter and places to hide. IPM also involves using green methods to try to fix these problem areas, to get rid of pests that are already there and to continue to monitor for problems.

ANSWER KEY: QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/MULTIPLE CHOICE



7. Answer: b

Why?

Pest control specialists are experts in pests' biology, needs and habitat. They use this knowledge to outwit pests in ways that don't harm people or the planet. They know the most about the safest choices for keeping homes, schools and businesses free from pest problems.

8. Answer: c

Why?

Bugs and their eggs can hitch rides into our homes in things like backpacks, groceries, cardboard boxes, firewood, luggage, birdseed and even things from garage sales. Carefully inspect everything that comes into your home!

9. Answer: c

Why?

Any warm, quiet place that offers clutter for hiding and making nests is a good place to look. Pests may also find drinking water under sinks from leaky pipes or pipes with condensation.

10. Answer: a

Why?

No need to get rid of the recycling bins in order to deal with this pest problem. Throwing containers caked with bits of food into the recycling bin is giving free food to pests. Rinse out all food containers. Make sure you also wash the recycling bins regularly. Consider storing the recycling bins away from the main house.

11. Answer: d

Why?

Ants are finding food and water. Always clean up crumbs and spills right away, and don't let dirty dishes pile up in the sink. Seal all the food in your cupboards in pest-proof containers like plastic boxes with fitted lids. Make sure your garbage containers have lids, and take the garbage out every day. If you cut off a pest's indoor food source, it will have to go elsewhere to find what it needs to survive. Seal off entry points such as gaps under doors to prevent pests from entering in the first place.

ANSWER KEY: QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/MULTIPLE CHOICE



12. Answer: a

Why?

Although many people are afraid of spiders, most spiders are actually helpful to humans because they eat all sorts of other insects that harm our plants. If you find a spider in the house, try to trap it. Release it again outside. Then the spider can continue its good work. *Remember to always check with an adult to make sure the spider species is not harmful to humans.

13. Answer: c

Why?

Many insects are repelled by the scent of marigolds. Planting marigolds in between some of your other plants might be enough to deal with the pest problem. If not, consult a pest control expert who can teach you other safe ideas.

14. Answer: a

Why?

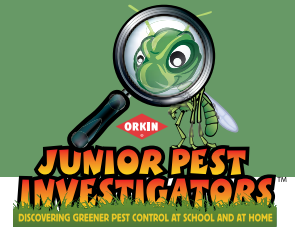
Mosquitoes are actually attracted to dark-colored clothing and smelly perfumes and soaps! If you wear these, they will find you right away. Light-colored, full-length clothing, hats, thick socks, and shoes or boots will provide you with protection. Buy non-toxic repellents to use on parts of your body not covered by clothing, such as your face and hands. Safe alternatives to DEET-based sprays and lotions are in many stores. Stay indoors at times when mosquitoes are most active (dawn, dusk, dark).

15. Answer: d

Why?

In the past, many people thought the best way to deal with pests was to kill them with chemical sprays (pesticides). Now we understand that these sprays sometimes threaten the health of the environment and other creatures, including humans, their pets and wildlife. IPM gives us many choices to deal with pest problems without risking this kind of damage. With IPM, we use knowledge about pests against them. We can call on a pest professional to be our partner in learning and making the best choices when we have pests.

QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/ESSAY



Take the Quiz-of-Questions Challenge! How many questions can you answer?

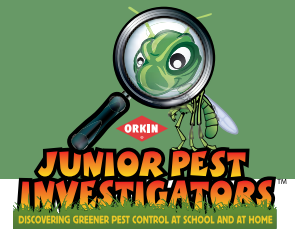
1. What is a pest? Write a definition and give examples of common pests you may find in school or at home.

2. Give two examples of beneficial species and explain how they help us.

3. Give three examples of harmful species and explain their potential dangers.

4. Describe a situation where an animal is being a pest and a situation in which the same animal is not being a pest.

QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/ESSAY



5. Why is it important to make careful decisions when dealing with pests?

6. How do facts about a pest's needs and habitat help us solve pest problems?

7. Why do pests invade "human habitats?" What are they looking for in our classrooms and homes?

8. Describe conditions that would make a home a "hot spot" for pests.

QUIZ-OF-QUESTIONS/ESSAY



9. List specific actions that you could take to “green sweep” your home so that pests do not come in.

10. What is IPM?

11. Why is IPM important?

12. What are the decision-making steps essential to IPM? Identify and describe at least two steps.

SENTENCE STARTERS



What is your “Level of Expertise?” How will you complete these sentences?

1. A pest is...

2. _____ and _____ are two examples of species that help us.
They are beneficial because...

3. _____ and _____ are two examples of species that are harmful.
They are harmful or dangerous because...

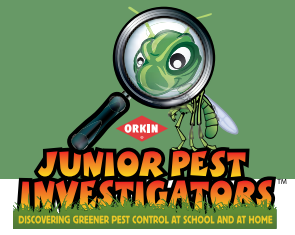
4. An animal is a pest when...

An animal is not a pest when...

5. It is important to be careful about what I do about pests because...

6. Living organisms need...

SENTENCE STARTERS



7. When pests come inside they are looking for...

8. A "hot spot" is...

9. Here's how I can help "green sweep" my home to make it unsuitable for pests:

10. IPM stands for...

11. IPM is...

12. IPM emphasizes...

13. IPM is important because...

14. The decision-making steps of IPM are...
