

(whole insect)**Insect Collage****Approach:** Independent task**Level:** Year 4 only**Time:** 30 minutes**Resources:** Three A3 size black and white photographic pictures of complete insects.

Each student: set of A5 papers (grease proof, tissue, grey, cartridge, copied hessian, copied newspaper); scissors, glue stick, sheet of A3 manilla.

Instructions

The teacher administrator gave the following instructions:

In front of you, you will find a range of papers and a piece of brown manilla paper to use as a background sheet.

You are to make a make-believe or fantasy picture of an insect, using the different papers.

To help you get started, we have some insect photos that will give you some great ideas. These pictures are to help you think of shapes and textures, so that you can invent your own insect.

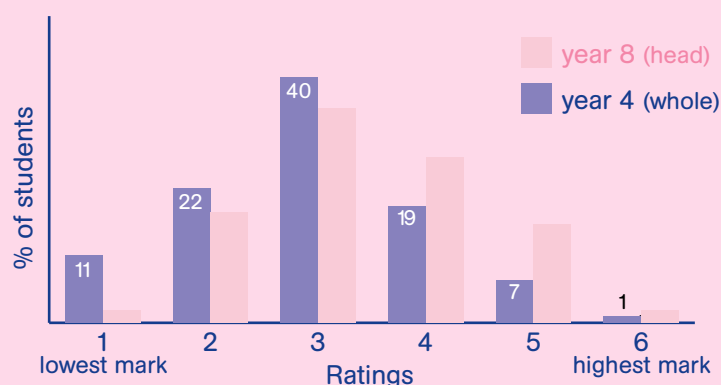
Try to use your papers in interesting ways. Try to show interesting shapes and forms. And choose papers because of the textures or patterns they have.

By cutting, tearing, overlapping and arranging the papers, you are going to build up a picture of an insect - a picture of the insect's whole body.

Make your insect as big as you can for the piece of brown paper. Don't make too many of the pieces too little, or they will take too long to stick down.

Arrange the papers where you would like them to be for your picture. About 10 minutes before the end of this activity, I will give you a glue stick, so that you can glue the pieces of paper onto the brown piece to finish off your picture.

Students were not penalised for incomplete drawings

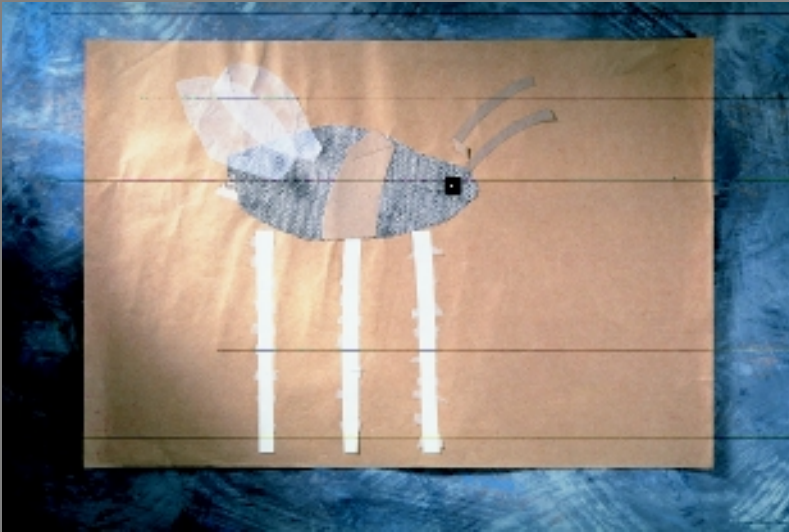
Global ratings: Insect collage

The ratings given to year 4 students' collage pictures were spread across the full range of low to high with 59% marked in the middle range of 3 or 4.

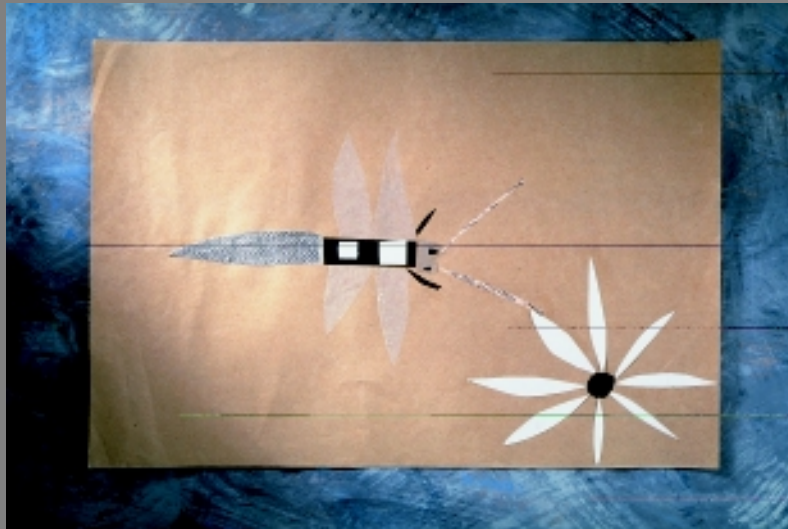
Key attributes (1 low – 4 high)	Qualities	Mean score	
		year 4	year 8
expressiveness	image relevant to the task; expressiveness, fantasy, imagination.	2.3	(2.7)
composition	unity; balance, but not necessarily symmetry.	2.3	(2.7)
detail	finer features included; variety of shapes; use of textural and tonal contrast (e.g. torn/cut, textured/plain, light/dark, narrow wide, delicate/bold).	2.3	(2.7)
use of media	edge quality; use of overlap, overlay, folding, crushing, 3 dimensionality.	2.2	(2.6)
Global Rating (1 low – 6 high)		2.9	(3.4)

Insect collage exemplars

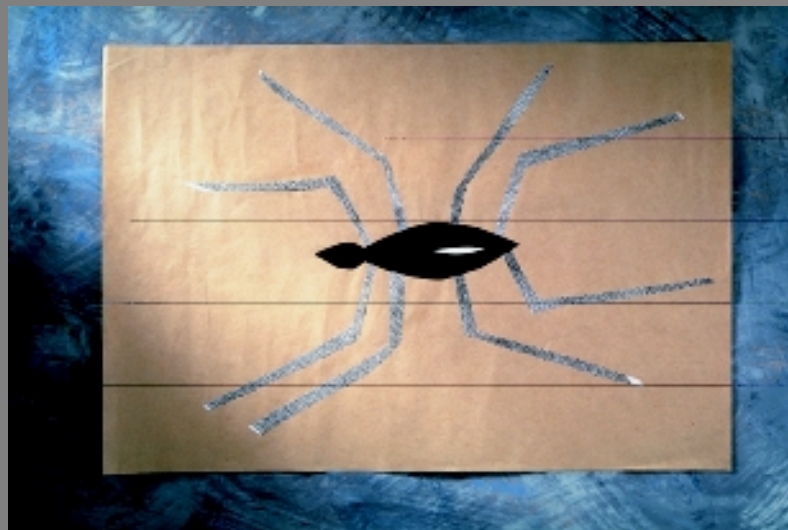
mid range



A profile insect with sort of hairy legs, wings and antennae. The eye has been given life with the subtle placement of a small white triangle within the black square. There isn't a sense of the legs being thoughtfully shaped. It seems important that there were three of them (representing a half viewpoint?) and that they have something happening on them other than being plain edged, straight lines. But the decision to use tissue paper on the legs means much of the effect is lost. We are not easily aware when tissue overlays the white as we are when it overlays the textured papers.



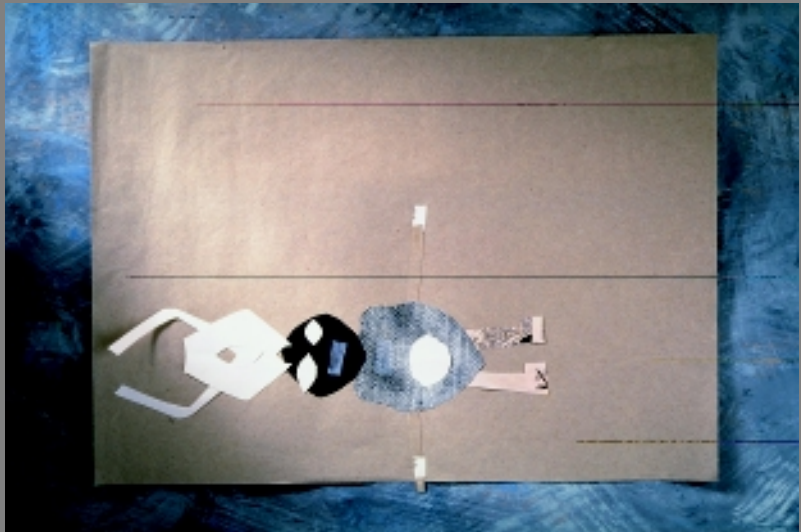
A relatively conventional insect form: a double-winged dragonfly! Nice use of the textured newsprint for antennae. The body tends to fall apart a little because those black and white contrasts are perhaps too strong for the rest of the body, which is rather delicately represented. Parts tend to disappear against that extreme contrast, and instead the focus has become a very carefully cut flower in the foreground. The student is starting to work towards making a picture of an insect approaching a flower rather than staying on and refining the insect itself.



A coherent and nicely balanced image with each part of the body given its own separate textures. The hessian textures are used to give a kind of hairy legged quality and the antennae are given the same treatment. The central form of the insect is a repeated series of lozenges. It is a convincing if not overly developed collage. The student has really only made use of three of the papers that were available, and has kept them in separate parts.

Insect collage exemplars

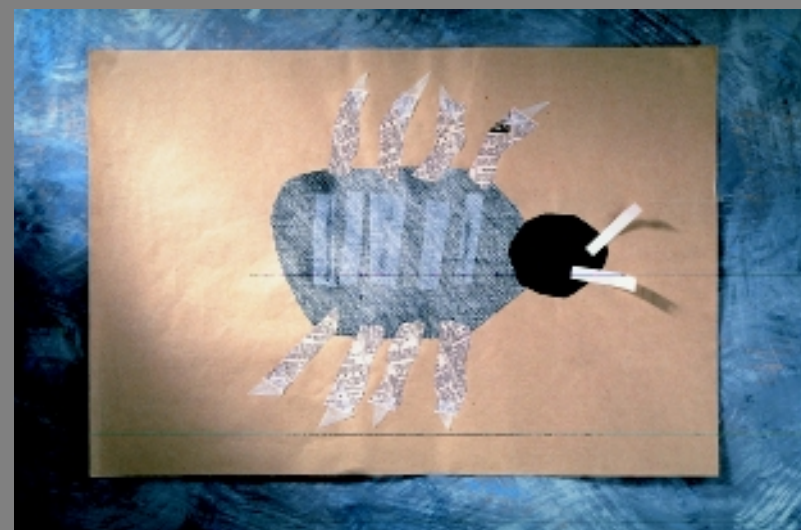
This insect is somewhat humanoid. It has arms, legs with block feet, eyes, nose and a large belly button. Its head piece can be read like a mask. This, then, is the development of schema from a person into an insect. It is a reasonably successful attempt in those terms. It doesn't hold together well mainly because each part has been given its own separate paper colour. Thus there is a tendency for it to fall apart into its components rather than read as a whole. There is some success in creating some of the shapes.



A very simple potatoey bug shape with two little wings stuck on top, three little legs stuck below, multiple eye forms, a mouth, and a stinging tail. No real attempt has been made to shape the body or legs. The black square eyes arranged in a repeated layout tend to dominate the whole picture. You lose the delicate wings since they are not sufficiently contrasted with the background. There has been a strong preference for textured surfaces so when the few plain surfaces are used, like the black, they have an overly dominant effect. There is no use of the white paper for contrast or shaping.

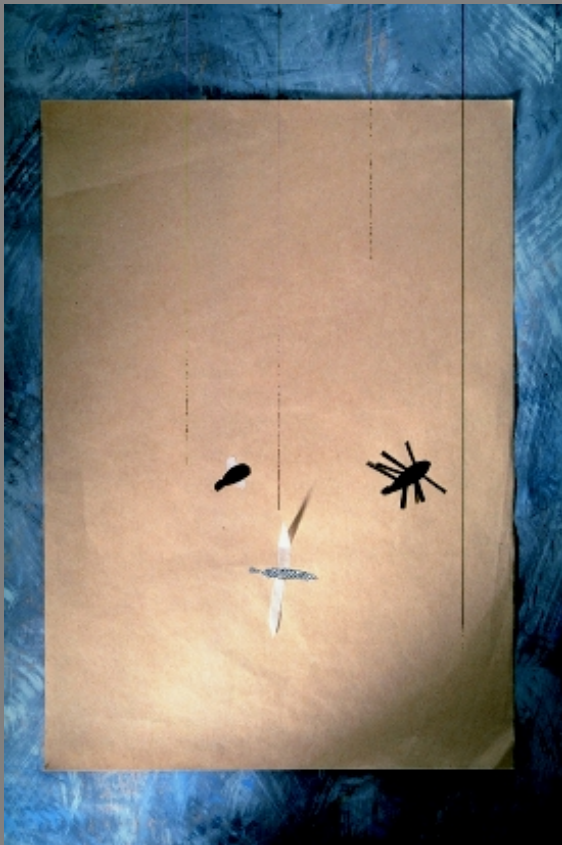


A very simple 8 legged insect form. A sort of potato shaped body with a head form attached, but no attempt to integrate the feelers with body or to give them any detail. As with the antennae, the legs give an appearance of being stuck on as an after thought, although an attempt has been made to extend the meaning of the legs by adding small pointed segments at the ends. There is some attempt at striping the body but these are simple rectangles applied in a patterned fashion. Because there is insufficient contrast, and major effect in providing decoration is largely lost.



Insect collage exemplars

lower range



high range

Insect collage exemplars

