Classroom Activity: Invertebrates in Garden Habitats

Introduction to Invertebrates (10 minutes)

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Invertebrates are animals that do not have a backbone. They can be found in many different habitats, including gardens. Invertebrates play a crucial role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of garden ecosystems. They help with pollination, decomposition, and serve as a food source for other animals.

1. What is an invertebrate?

2. What are some examples of invertebrates found in gardens?

3. Why are invertebrates important in gardens?

Food Chains and Invertebrates (15 minutes)

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Food chains show how energy is transferred from one organism to another. Invertebrates are an important part of food chains in garden ecosystems. They can be producers, consumers, or decomposers.

1. What is a food chain?

2. What role do invertebrates play in food chains?

3. Give an example of a simple food chain in a garden.

Adaptations of Invertebrates (15 minutes)

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Invertebrates have adapted to their environments in unique ways. These adaptations help them survive and thrive in their habitats.

1. What is an adaptation?
2. Give an example of an adaptation in an invertebrate.
3. How do adaptations help invertebrates survive in their habitats?

Changing Habitats and Invertebrates (15 minutes)

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Changes in habitats can affect invertebrate populations. Human activities such as gardening practices, pesticide use, and climate change can impact invertebrate habitats.

1. How can changes in habitats affect invertebrates?
2. What are some human activities that can impact invertebrate habitats?

3. Why is it important to conserve invertebrate habitats?

Activity 1: Invertebrate Matching Game (15 minutes)

Match the invertebrate with its description.

Invertebrate	Description
Bee	Has a backbone
Butterfly	Helps with decomposition
Earthworm	Has a hard outer shell
Ladybug	Pollinates flowers

Activity 2: Design an Invertebrate-Friendly Garden (20 minutes)

Design a garden that is friendly to invertebrates. Include plants that attract pollinators, a water source, and shelter for invertebrates.

[Space for design]

Activity 3: Invertebrate Food Chain (20 minutes)

Create a simple food chain using the following organisms: plants, aphids, ladybugs, and birds.

[Space for food chain]

Conclusion (10 minutes)

Read the following text and answer the questions:

In conclusion, invertebrates play a vital role in garden ecosystems. They help with pollination, decomposition, and serve as a food source for other animals. By understanding invertebrates and their adaptations, we can appreciate the importance of conserving their habitats.

1. What is the importance of invertebrates in garden ecosystems?

2. Why is it important to conserve invertebrate habitats?

Glossary (10 minutes)

Match the term with its definition.

Term	Definition
Invertebrate	An animal that does not have a backbone
Food chain	A series of events where one organism is eaten by another
Adaptation	A special feature or behavior that helps an animal survive in its habitat

Answer Key (10 minutes)

Check your answers with the answer key.

1. An invertebrate is an animal that does not have a backbone.
2. Examples of invertebrates found in gardens include bees, butterflies, ants, and worms.
3. Invertebrates are important in gardens because they help with pollination, decomposition, and serve as a food source for other animals.