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Heights Elementary School Bugscope Session

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Bugscope is an educational outreach project run by the Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The institute makes their \$600,000 scanning electron microscope available to teachers all over the world, so that their students may get a glimpse of the microscopic world of insects. Scientists are online during the session to answer questions posed by students via a chat window. Students and teachers control the microscope through their computers in their classrooms or computer labs.

Mrs. Leary's fifth grade class participated in a Bugscope session in the Heights computer lab. We were unable to send our specimens to Bugscope because it was still too cold out to find them. Fortunately, the scientists at Bugscope were able to provide us with an ant, cricket, and sow bug (an isopod). Students researched these animal prior to the session. On the day of the session eight computers were set up in the Heights Computer Lab for communication with the laboratory in Illinois. Two were designated as teacher stations and six were setup as student chat stations. One teacher station was connected to the interactive whiteboard and projector. The scientists on hand were [Scott Robinson](#), [Annie Ray](#), and [Cate Wallace](#) all from the [Imaging Technology Group](#) at the Beckman Institute. As Mrs. Leary and Ms. Shapiro moved the microscope across the insects, students raised many questions which were typed into the chat stations and quickly answered by the scientists. To view the images and excerpts from the chat, click on the animal pages in the navigation menu on the sidebar.

The Bugscope logo was created by [Janet Sinn-Hanlon](#), of the Imaging Technology Group and is used with permission.

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