**Specimen Observation Data**

**Goal:** Life is all around us! Because we are often in a rush, we miss out on the amazing complexity of our biological world. Our task today is to make scientific observations based on an animal. These insects have been preserved after their deaths at a swimming pool.

**Procedures:** You will work in pairs for this activity, but each person will select one animal to study.

1. Select your specimen (animal)
2. Carefully bring specimen to your station
3. *Diagram* your animal carefully noting anything interesting in the box below
4. Make *general observations* about your animal and write those down in the box below
5. Using a magnifying glass/dissecting scope, make *specific observations* and write those down
6. Make some *inferences* about your animals behaviors/locations/lifespan
7. Using the website Bugguide.net or <http://www.insectidentification.org/> identify your bug. Please write down the steps necessary to complete the appropriate identification!
8. Using the Encyclopedia of Life (<http://eol.org/>) and/or the field guides, please describe the animal’s general characteristics
9. Compare your initial inferences with the EOL info. Complete the reflection and submit your work!

|  |
| --- |
| Diagram 🡪  |
| General Observations (unaided eye)Color, number of appendages, wings, etc. | Specific Observations (using magnification)Hairs, colors, mouth parts, etc. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Inferences (what can you predict about this animal’s life style):** |
|  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Identification (what type of animal is it – scientific name & common name): |
| Website used: |
| List the steps necessary to complete the appropriate identification (be specific): |
| Information from the Encyclopedia of Life (distribution, Associations, Molecular Biology, Conservation Status): |
| Compare your initial inferences with the information from the Encyclopedia of Life. How accurate where you? List something new you learned. |
| Reflection: Why did we do this activity? |