# Wanted Poster

**Grade Level:** 7th grade

**Title of Lesson**: Wanted Poster

**Performance Standard(s) Covered:**

S7L4. Students will examine the dependence of organisms on one another and their environments.

c. Recognize that changes in environmental conditions can affect the survival of both individuals and entire species.

d. Categorize relationships between organisms that are competitive or mutually beneficial.

**Essential Question:** How do insects and plants in the garden relate?

**Objective:** Students will understand that there are beneficial and harmful insects that can be found in the garden and how they relate to other organisms that reside there.

**Key Words and Terms:**

- Pest
- Beneficial insect
- Host
- Parasite
- Parasitic relationship
- Predator-Prey
- Commensalism
- Competition
- Mutualism
- Dichotomous Key

**Learning Activity**

**Abstract**

Students will explore the garden and find an insect they will have to research. They will identify it using a dichotomous key and then create a wanted poster depicting if the insect is beneficial or a pest.

## Materials Needed

- Computer (one per student)
- Printer paper (one per student)
- Camera (to photograph insect students will identify)
- Nets (one per student)
- Jars (one per student)

## Safety Concerns

Some insects bite, sting, pinch, etc. Please warn students of insects that do these behaviors and encourage them to avoid them for this assignment.

## Procedure

1. Explain to students what a dichotomous key is and how to use one.
2. Tell students they will be going to the garden to find a bug and will then identify it using the dichotomous key online.
3. Warn students of venomous insects and encourage them to avoid them.
4. Take students to the garden and allow them to explore and use their nets and jars (or the camera) to find an insect to study.
5. Once all students have found an insect, return to the classroom and use the dichotomous key on this link to determine what the insect is - http://www.insectidentification.org/insect-key.asp
6. Once students have identified their insect using the key they will then create a poster on the computer with the following information
    a. Scientific and common names of insect
    b. If it is beneficial or a pest in the garden and to what plant
    c. What type of relationship it might have with the garden or other insects or animals
    d. A photo of the insect
    e. What it eats
    f. Its life cycle
7. Students will then print their poster after you have approved it and present it to the class.

**References:**

http://media-cache-ec0.pinimg.com/originals/d1/39/37/d13937f4d49160af0de6e4a054d358db.jpg

http://www.insectidentification.org/insect-key.asp

**Example:**


WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
JAPANESE BEETLE
Identified By: Metallic Green and Brown Body About ½" Long, Hard Shell
Damage Caused: These insects eat leaves of plant They continue to eat on the foliage until nothing is left but