



A quick guide for running great antlion observations with your class.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Set habitats up a day ahead, away from direct sun and heat vents.
- Assign each group a habitat and an observation log.
- Remind students to move slowly — vibrations make the antlion freeze.

PROMPTS THAT DRIVE OBSERVATION

- What shape is the pit? Why might that shape help catch prey?
- What does the antlion do when prey enters the pit?
- How does the pit change from day to day?
- What's a question we could actually test?

DISCUSSION CONNECTIONS

- Structure & function: the pit as a built tool.
- Predator–prey relationships and energy flow.
- Complete vs. incomplete metamorphosis.
- How science works: observe, question, hypothesize, then test.

CARE AT A GLANCE

- Feed about once a week (1–2 small ants or fruit flies each).
- Keep sand dry; an optional light mist around the pit every ~2 weeks is fine.
- Room temperature, out of direct sun. Antlions don't bite.