

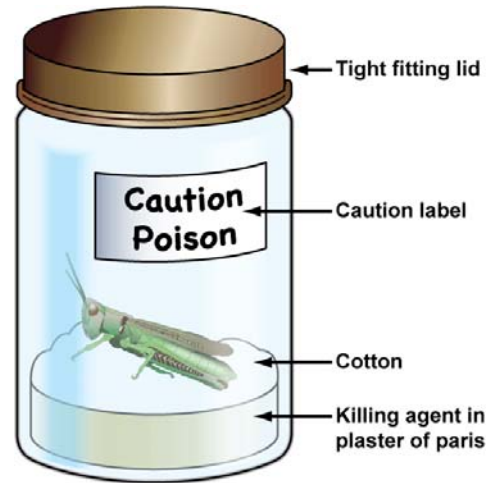
## Lesson 2: Insect Collection

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Making a Killing Jar**

Materials and supplies needed:

1. Wide-mouth jar, 6 to 16 oz. size with a screw-on lid
2. Bowl or container for mixing
3. Plaster of paris
4. Water
5. Ethyl acetate (killing agent)
6. Cotton
7. Tape, masking or electrical
8. Labels



*Example of a Killing Jar*

Procedure:

1. In a bowl or container, add water to the plaster of paris until a thick mixture is made.
2. Pour the mixture into the jar to a height of about 1 inch (20–30 millimeters).
3. Allow the mixture to air dry at room temperature (this requires several days) or under low heat (light bulb or lowest oven temperature) until completely dry.
4. Pour ethyl acetate onto the plaster of paris to cover it. **Caution: Be careful not to breathe the fumes.**
5. Cover the jar to prevent the fumes from escaping.
6. Let it stand a few minutes so that the plaster of paris can fully absorb the ethyl acetate.
7. Pour off any excess ethyl acetate and replace the lid. There should not be any standing liquid.
8. Place enough cotton to cover the plaster of paris. The insect should not come into direct contact with the plaster of paris.
9. Place tape on the bottom and lower sides of the jar to reduce the chance of breakage.
10. Label the jar "poison."
11. Reapply ethyl acetate to the plaster of paris after several hours of collecting insects as needed. Always leave the lid on unless the collector is actually placing an insect in or removing one from the jar.