

Name _____

Bug Battle: How Insects Defend Themselves from Predators

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Mimicry is effective because it tricks predators into thinking the insect is dangerous or toxic, causing them to avoid it.
2. Camouflage helps insects blend into their surroundings, making them difficult for predators to spot. For example, a stick insect looks like a twig, making it hard for birds to see.
3. Chemical defenses are important because they can deter predators with unpleasant smells or tastes, giving insects a better chance of survival.
4. Possible answer: Some insects might play dead when threatened, fooling predators into thinking they are not worth pursuing. For example, the death feigning beetle falls over and remains motionless when threatened, resembling a dead insect. This could work by convincing predators that the insect is already dead and not worth eating.

