## Colorado State University

How to find pests in your school

"A Classroom InPESTigation: Life Science Curriculum for Grades 3-5" is a new tool developed by Colorado State University and Washington State University through a grant from the Western Region Integrated Pest Management Center. There are five, 50-minute lessons that emphasize critical thinking and investigation — just what you need to figure out a pest problem. After pilot testing the curriculum, one teacher said, "My kids loved the entire unit. They loved them all! We learned a ton and had a great time doing so". The teaching materials use Colorado and Washington State and Next Generation Science standards.

In the first lesson, students consider what a pest is and why it may be a problem. They study the properties of living things and the key features of insects and plants as they work to accurately identify and organize common pests in their school. In the last lesson, students "inPESTigate" their classroom and develop a plan to keep their classroom pest free.

Pests can be fun to study and understand. Kids can help get adults interested too. We want everyone to manage pests, indoors and outdoors, in homes, gardens, landscapes, fields, forests and schools, in ways that protect human and environmental health — using Integrated Pest Management (IPM). For a copy of the curriculum (soon to be posted on the website), contact deborah.young@colostate.edu.



This bat is featured on the inPESTigator badge. It is common throughout the western United States.

IPM presents an opportunity to apply a scientific way of thinking to a real- world problem.

