

Student 6: High Not Achieved

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Cricket Protein Inquiry

Insects have been a part of human diets in cultures across the world for hundreds of years and currently about 2 billion people consume insects today, insects also have a lot of protein. For example, crickets, contain about 65% protein whilst chicken only contains about 25% protein and beef about 33% protein. We have been researching insects as a possible viable food source for New Zealand in the near future and learning different aspects and points of views that will be presented throughout this report. The following questions are what will be answered in this report for example: Are people who have travelled, more open to eating insects? And Are younger people more open to eating insects as oppose to the older generation? To answer these questions, we used primary sources such as ourselves and secondary such as the internet and books. We also surveyed people to see how they feel towards insects.

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One question we used was: Are people who have travelled more open to eating insects? To find out if this was indeed true we launched a survey. After looking at the survey results we found that the majority of people (about 90%) who had travelled were defiantly more open to eating insects. We found that people who hadn't travelled were not as open to eating insects and that it was 50/50. I believe people who haven't travelled generally aren't open to eating insects because they have been in a bubble such as New Zealand without venturing out into the wide world and seeing what other cultures eat and the delicacy's they have to offer. Being in a small first world, highly developed country where we don't have to live off insects and where there is a lot of meat to go round people seem to think "Why should I eat that, when I can just have a juicy steak instead" or "I'd rather die than eat that" but really if it came down to the crunch would you really rather starve yourself and die or would you adapt yourself to a new food source such as insects.

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One other question we used was: Are younger people more open to eating insects as oppose to the older generation? To find out if this was indeed true we launched another survey, people who completed the survey were asked one question: Would you eat insects? They then had three options: Yes, No and Maybe. After looking at the results we found that generally people over fifty years old were not as open to eating insects as the younger generation (under thirty-five). For example, twelve people between twenty-one and thirty-five said yes to eating insects while only two out of the twelve said yes to eating insects in the age range of fifty to sixty-five, this shows older people aren't as open as young people to eating insects. I thought this may be due to being 'stuck in old ways' as in when they were younger they were influenced by society to believe that insects were something to stay away from and that they are disgusting probably being due to being associated with mud. I also believe that particularly older people are more conservative in their food choices by this I mean that older people generally have already figured out the foods they like, dislike and foods they just stay away from, in this case being insects. I myself when given the chance to eat insects in class chose to try them, I found that I didn't really like the feeling of eating the insects whole especially the crunch but am more than happy to consume a cake made with cricket flour.

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Some political impacts of eating insects could be the way they are killed, meaning if the way they are euthanized is considered too harsh this may cause a rise in anti-insect eating activists or animal welfare groups interfering in the insect companies. This then brought me to ask: How are insects really euthanized. Some slaughter methods I came across when researching were:

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- Termites are either eaten alive directly where their found or are brought home to be roasted over coals or fried.

- Cicadas are boiled, fried or sautéed.
- Water bugs may be eaten whole, steamed, fried, roasted and canned.
- Scorpions are skewered alive and fried in oil.
- Tarantulas are fried in oil or roasted over a fire.
- In Brazil, residents pluck the wings off ants and then either fry them or dip them in chocolate.
- In Thailand, crickets are gathered fresh in the morning and then fried.

Most insect companies put insects like crickets for example into the freezer for 24 hours. The low temperatures cause insects processes to slow down and eventually dying therefore being one of the most humane way to kill insects.

This then lead me to believe can insects really feel pain?

After doing some research on the internet I found that insects don't actually experience pain but something akin to pain which means this other feeling helps them to learn to avoid or stay away from something that could potentially kill them.

In conclusion, our two questions we used were: Are people who have travelled, more open to eating insects? And Are young people more open to eating insects, as oppose to the older generation? After researching these two questions and the topic of eating insects I believe insects has big potential to become a possible viable food source for New Zealanders.

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