

Georges Brossard, Entomologist Extraordinaire

(July 2019)

Georges Brossard passed away on June 26, 2019. Who was he? He was a big fan of insects. In fact, Georges was such a big fan, he gave up a top job to travel the world and collect more than 250,000 insects.

Georges was born in 1940 in Quebec. He first got into collecting insects when he was a child. He had a class and there were two things for the kids to look at with a microscope. One of those things was a butterfly. He would inspect it for a number of hours. It had a big impact on him. That is when he knew he was a bug buff.

Georges collected lots of bugs, but ants and spiders ended up making a mess of them. This did not stop him. Seeing his insects that way was the exact moment he knew he was to become a collector. It just

took him a bit to get there. At first, Georges went to law school, but by his late 30s, it was time for a new job. He was going to focus on his two loves: insects and the environment. With his wife, Suzanne, and their three children, Georges went all over the world. By 1985, he had 250,000 insects from more than 100 countries.

Georges knew that insects do a lot for us. They make products such as silk, wax, and honey, just to name a few things. They pollinate plants as well. And yet, they are the most hated animals. That is why Georges made a plan to stick up for them.

As part of his plan to stick up for insects, Georges had a talk with the mayor of Montreal and told him about his wish to construct an insectarium. The mayor put him in contact with the director of the Montreal Botanical Garden right away. They got the funds for the project and Georges donated all his insects. After that, there was an exhibit for bug fans to visit.

When talking about Georges, one event stands out. In 1987, the Children's Wish Foundation contacted him because six-year-old David Marenger, who collected butterflies, had cancer. His last wish was to collect a Blue Morpho, one of the biggest butterflies in the world. They went down to Mexico and spotted one of the distinct insects. The best part is that after David got home, his cancer went away. Georges went on helping children for the rest of his life.

Now, with Georges' passing, it is up to new insect fans to carry on his work and tell the world how much they can learn from insects. This is something Georges did so well.

Teacher Resources

Text Easability Scores

If you would like to measure the text easability scores of this passage, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit the Coh-Metrix Text Easability Assessor website at <http://tea.cohmetrix.com/>. If you do not already have a login and password, create one. It is free and easy to sign up for access to the website.
2. Once you have created an account and sign in, you will be taken to a page with an empty, white text box. Copy and paste the text from this passage into the empty, white text box. Make sure you are only copying and pasting the body of the passage. Do not include the title, date, or any of the resources present in the passage.
3. When you have pasted the passage into the text box, click on the red button beneath the text box that says "Analyze." There will be a short delay and after a few seconds, you will see a bar graph appear to the right of the screen.
4. The bar graph will give you the percentages for several text characteristics including: narrativity, syntactic simplicity, word concreteness, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion.
5. Below the bar graph, the Flesch Kincaid Grade Level is also included for your benefit.
6. Lastly, a paragraph is provided that explains the meaning of the measurements of the text characteristics for your particular passage.
7. Once you have completed measuring your passage, you can click on the "Clear" button below the text box and measure another passage, if you wish.

This text passage is archived under *People*.

Please note: this non-controlled readable text passage features a ***description text structure***. As such, it is written to be ***at least 80% decodable at Substep 3.3***. A specific decodability score is listed below.

- This text passage is 80.05% decodable at Substep 3.3.