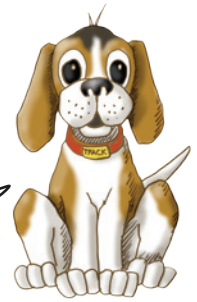




Bug Out TRACK-tivity

Bugs are some of the most beneficial creatures on Earth! Bugs help pollinate the world's crops. Bugs even decompose dead plant and animal material which helps to recycle valuable nutrients back into soil. The next time you are outside, try these activities while looking for creepy crawlies.



Insects are an extremely diverse group of animals. More than half of all known organisms on Earth are insects. There are over 1 million different types of insects!

How many different kinds of insects can you find today?



Butterfly



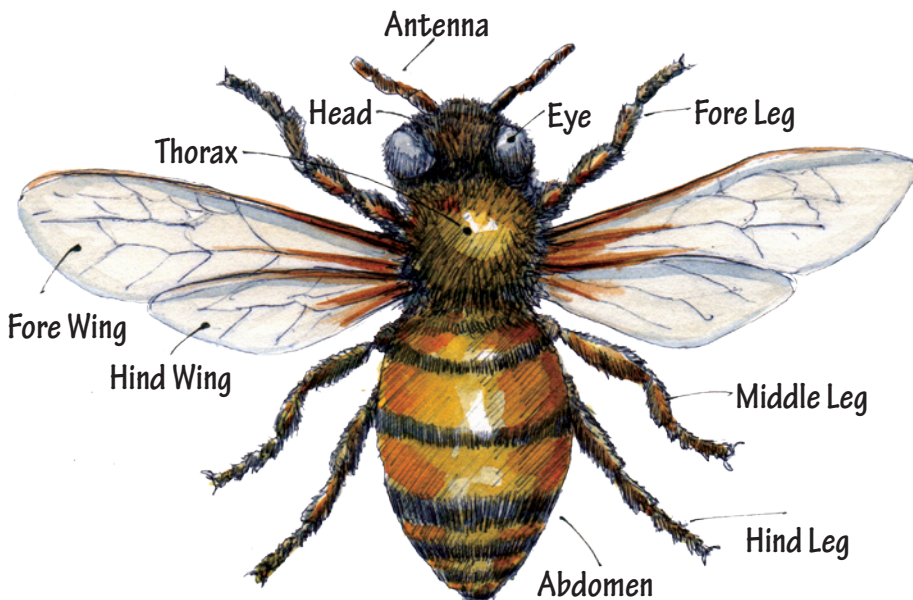
Dragonfly



Ant



Grasshopper



This drawing of a honeybee is typical of most insects. All insects have:

- A hard, external skeleton called an **exoskeleton**
- A **head** with two antennae, compound eyes and mouth parts
- A **thorax** with six jointed legs and, if present, 2 or 4 wings
- An **abdomen** with respiratory, reproductive and digestive organs

If you have a chance to see an insect up close, see how many of these parts you can find.

