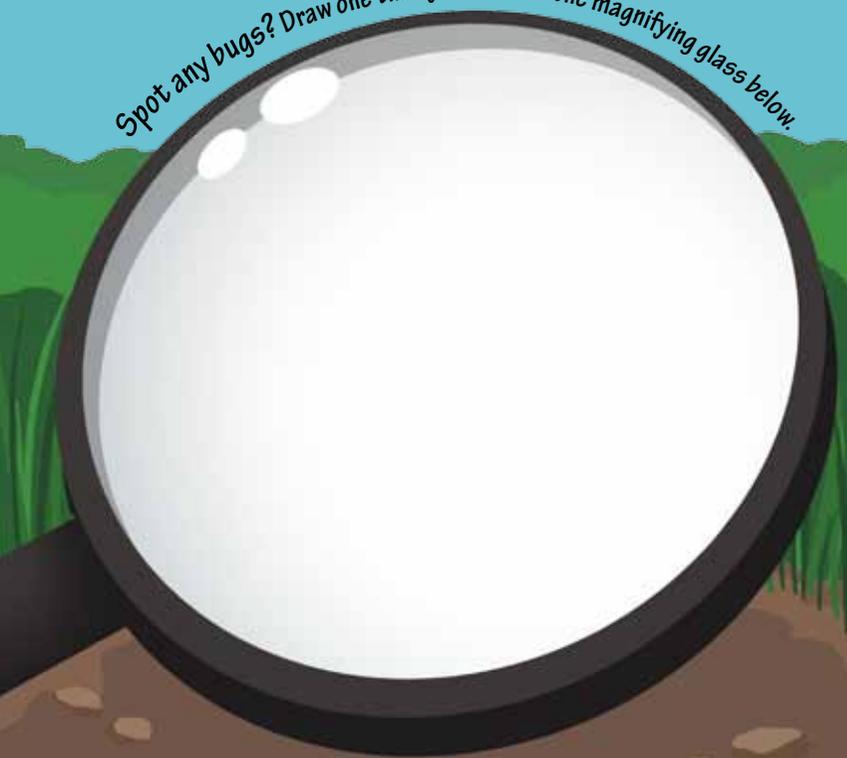


Insect Investigator

With so many different looking bugs, it can be easy to mistake other critters for insects. Identify and circle the silhouettes that are not insects.



Spot any bugs? Draw one that you found in the magnifying glass below.



TRACK your hike at
kidsinparcs.com
and get **FREE** prizes!



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BUG-OUT

A Creepy-Crawly Adventure

Bugs come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colors, so it can be easy to mistake one family of creepy-crawlies for another. On your hike today, use this brochure to get "Bugged Out" and learn the differences between insects, spiders, and other common arthropods.

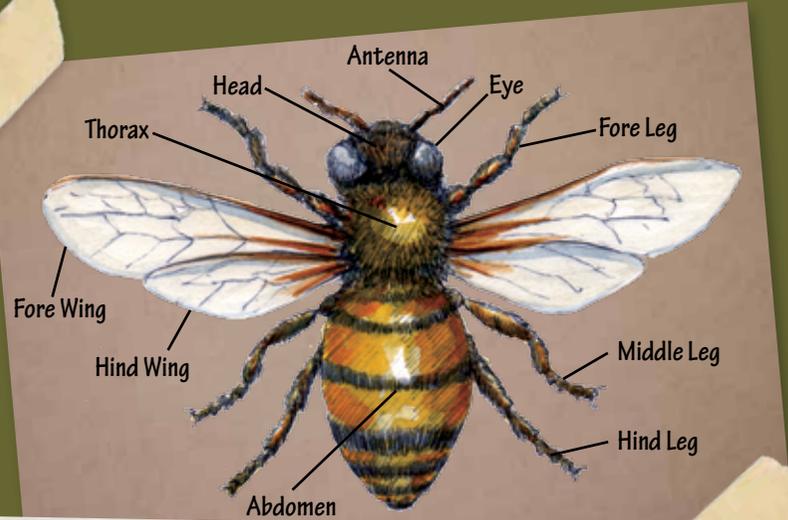


WARNING:

Some of our insect and spider friends have adaptations to help them survive that can be harmful to you. Please **DO NOT** handle any potentially harmful critters like spiders, wasps, bees, and ants. Also, please **DO NOT** kill them either. They all have a place in nature.

Insects

With over a million different species, insects are an extremely diverse group of animals. All insects, no matter how different their size or shape, have a three-part body with six legs.



The body of a honeybee is like that of most insects.

All insects have...

... a **head** with two antennae, compound eyes and mouth parts

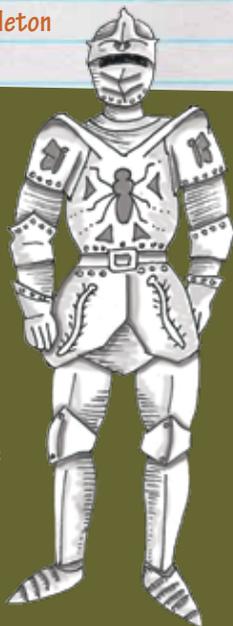
... a **thorax** with six jointed legs and, if present, 2 or 4 wings

... an **abdomen** with respiratory, reproductive and digestive organs

... a hard, external skeleton called an **exoskeleton**



Exoskeleton



What is an Exoskeleton?

Instead of having a skeleton on the inside of their bodies, insects have their skeleton on the outside. A hard exoskeleton protects an insect like a knight's suit of armor.

How many of these different insects can you find today?



Butterfly



Dragonfly



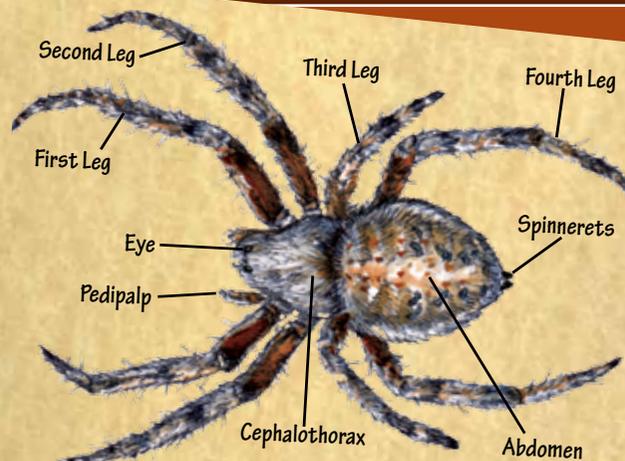
Ant



Grasshopper

Spiders

look similar to insects, but they are actually different.



Spiders have a hard exoskeleton, but instead of a three-part body, they have a two-part body made up of the cephalothorax and abdomen. Spiders also have eight legs, pedipalps, venom injecting fangs, and web-making spinnerets.

Other Arthropods

Insects, spiders and crustaceans are all arthropods. Arthropods are a group of creatures that make up about 85% of all living things on Earth. They can be identified by their exoskeleton, segmented bodies, and jointed legs.

Millipedes, centipedes, pillbugs (roly-polies), and harvestmen are commonly considered bugs. However, unlike their insect and spider cousins, they can have more body segments, legs, or even extra features like claws. Some are harmless critters like millipedes, pillbugs and harvestmen, while others can cause harm, like venomous centipedes and scorpions.



Millipede



Centipede



Pillbug



Harvestman

Can you spot any of these bug homes?

Bugs have different ways of sheltering themselves from predators or weather. Or they can even use their homes as traps for food. CAUTION: Many bugs will defend their homes by biting and stinging. Look from a distance and DO NOT disturb them.



Spider web



Wasp nest



Ant hill



Cocoons