

Activity—Classifying Invertebrates

Activity 1—Grouping animals

1. Look at the animal cards on pages 3-5. Can you write down the name of every animal?
2. Look at what the animals are covered in (fur, feather, scales, a shell etc.) and see if you can put them into groups based on these similarities.
3. Can you name these groups? (CLUE: use the key words on Page 2 to work it out!)
4. All animals can be split into two groups—those with backbones (vertebrates) and those without backbones (invertebrates). Can you split the cards into these two groups? Ask an adult if you're unsure about if any of them have a backbone or not.

Activity 2—Introducing invertebrates

1. Read the Fun Facts on Page 2.
2. Find these four invertebrates: bee, beetle, ant and butterfly
3. List below what features these animals have that are the same (6 legs, 3 body parts, antennae) and in what ways they differ (wings, different colours etc.)

Similarities:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Differences:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Activity 3—Using a classification key

1. Pick out all the other invertebrates and add group them with the 4 you've been looking at above.
2. Using the classification key on Page 6, follow the questions to work out which group each of the invertebrates belong to.
3. Write the invertebrate's group next to its name.

Activity 4—Research you favourite!

Pick your favourite invertebrate to research and produce a poster telling people all about it. Be sure to include:

- the habitat or microhabitat it lives in
- the adaptations it has that help it live in its habitat
- it's diet (herbivore/omnivore/carnivore) .
- it's predators or prey

Fun facts

- 80% of the world's known species are invertebrates
- They form the basis of numerous food chains: e.g. 80% of plants rely on invertebrates for pollination
- One pipistrelle bat will eat around 8,000 insects in one evening.
- Some look very similar, some look very different. One thing they all have in common is that none of them have a spine/backbone

Key words

Classification—grouping living things into categories based on similarities

Vertebrate—Animal with a backbone

Invertebrate—Animal without a backbone

Mammal— Animals covered in fur or hair that give birth to live young

Reptile—Animals covered in dry scales that lay leathery eggs

Fish—Animals covered in wet scales that lay jelly-like eggs

Bird—Animals covered in feathers that lay hard eggs

- List of animals on the animal cards:**
- giraffe
 - meerkat
 - ant
 - scarlet macaw
 - cabbage white butterfly
 - orb weaver spider
 - giant stick insect
 - wasp
 - beetle
 - peacock
 - snail
 - viper
 - earth worm
 - monitor lizard
 - centipede
 - crab
 - piranha fish
 - angel fish







Woodland Invertebrates Classification Key

Does it have legs?

YES

NO

**Does it have
6 legs?**

**Is the body split
into many parts?**
(you might see lines
going across the body)

YES

NO

YES

NO

INSECT

6 legs, antennae, 3 body parts,
some have wings.



ANNELID

No legs,
soft & segmented bodies.



MOLLUSC

No legs, soft bod,
some have shells.



Does it have 8 legs?

YES

NO

ARACHNID

8 leg,
no antennae
2 body parts
no wings.



Does it have more than 20 legs?

YES

NO

MYRIAPOD

Lots of legs, lots of
body parts.



CRUSTACEAN

14 legs, body in segments

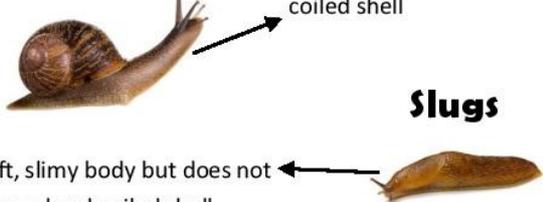


Invertebrate summary cards

Mollusc

Snails → Soft, slimy body and hard coiled shell

Slugs → Soft, slimy body but does not have a hard coiled shell



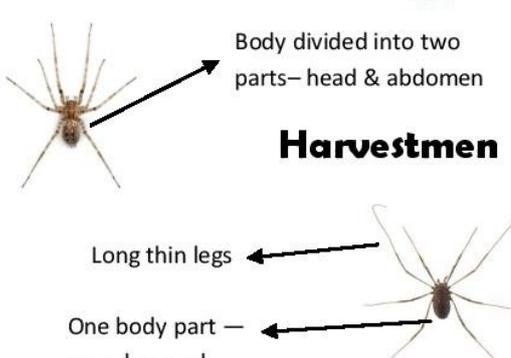
Arachnid **Legs: 8**

→ Body divided into two parts— head & abdomen

Harvestmen

→ Long thin legs

→ One body part — round or oval



Worms

Earthworm (annelids) → Long thin body divided into segments



Crustacean

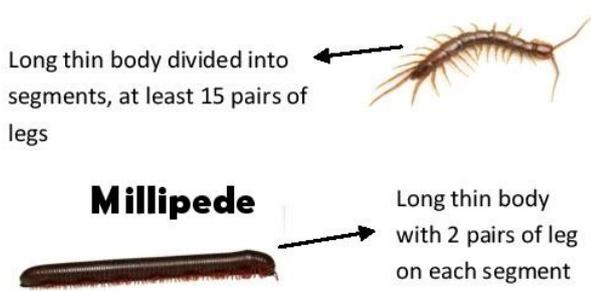
Woodlice → Body divided into many segments, 7 pairs of legs, oval body, can roll into a ball



Myriapods

Centipede → Long thin body divided into segments, at least 15 pairs of legs

Millipede → Long thin body with 2 pairs of leg on each segment



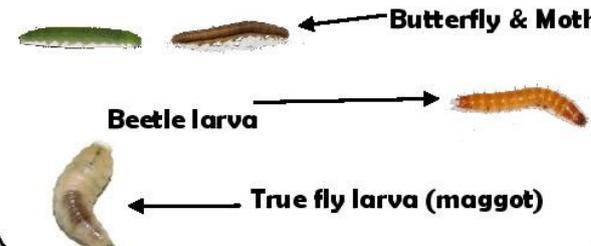
Insect larvae

Most insects reproduce by laying eggs. The young that hatch from these eggs are either larvae (looks different from adults) or nymphs (smaller versions of the adult)

→ **Butterfly & Moth**

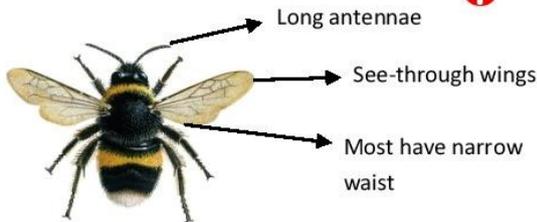
→ **Beetle larva**

→ **True fly larva (maggot)**

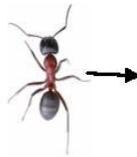


Insects

Bees, wasps and ants Legs: 6

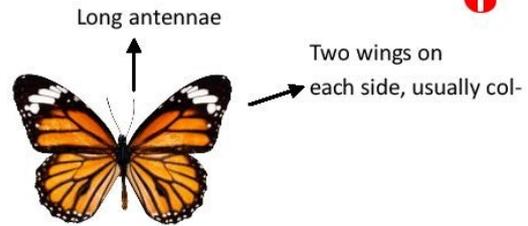


Bees are often hairy, whereas wasps and ants are not hairy.



Ants usually do not have wings

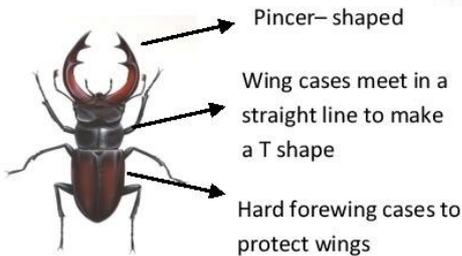
Butterflies and moths Legs: 6



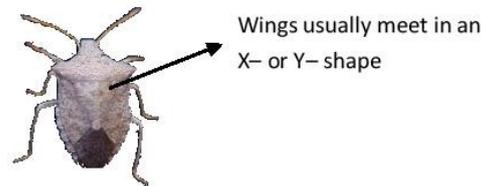
Butterfly— usually flies during the day, rest with their wings closed

Moth— usually fly at night, feathery antennae, rest with wings open

Beetles Legs: 6



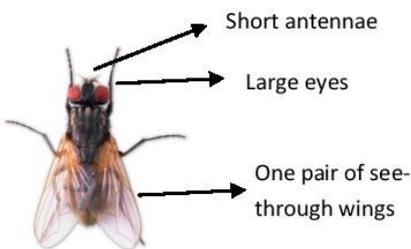
True bugs Legs: 6



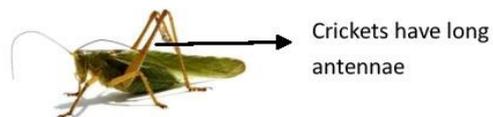
Not true for aphids



True flies Legs: 6



Cricket, grasshoppers, earwigs Legs: 6



Grasshoppers have short antennae

