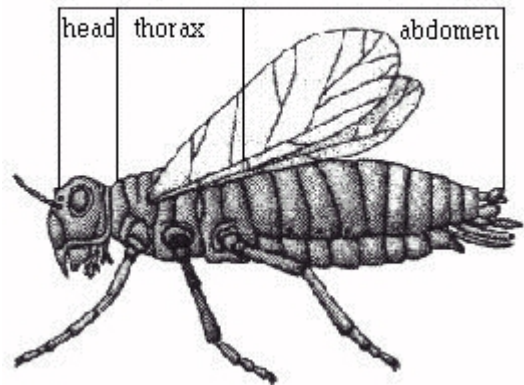


Basics of Insects

¹ Insects are possibly the most successful animals on earth! Half of the animals known to science - over one million species - are insects. They can be found in extremely harsh environments. From the Himalayas Mountains to the Sahara Desert, scientists have found trails of insects. Indeed, insects are everywhere! Butterflies, bees, ants, cockroaches, and beetles are all insects.



² Adult insects have three parts in their bodies - head, thorax, and abdomen. The head holds insects' brain and mouth, as well as their sense organs such as eyes and antennae. Wings and legs are attached to the thorax segment. The abdomen segment contains insects' heart, digestive system, and reproductive organs. In addition to three body segments, adult insects also have three pairs of jointed legs, one pair of antennae, and, usually, two pairs of wings. A hard, external skeleton covers all parts of an insect's body for the purpose of protection. This external skeleton is called "exoskeleton." Young insects molt or shed all their exoskeleton several times before they grow to adult size. Once young insects become adults, they cannot grow any larger because their exoskeletons are formed.

³ Many animals also have jointed legs and an exoskeleton but not all of them are insects! For example, spiders and scorpions are not insects for two apparent reasons: they have eight legs, and they only have two parts in their bodies. The spider's and scorpion's head and thorax are merged together in a single structure. That special formation and abdomen make spiders and scorpions two-segmented animals, instead of three-segmented ones like insects.

⁴ As annoying as some insects appear to be, they are very important to our environment. For example, bees help pollinate our crops. Pollination ensures that fruit and seeds are produced. Bees also provide us with honey and beeswax. Ladybugs eat insects like aphids that are harmful to plants. Of course, not all insects are good insects! Mosquitoes spread disease, locusts eat away our crops, and termites can destroy the wooden structure of our houses! Whether they are good or harmful, insects are part of the ecosystem, and they need to exist in order to maintain the balance of nature.

Basics of Insects

<p>1. Not all insects have six legs. Some of them have more.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A True</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B False</p>	<p>2. Insects can only be found in a warm environment. For example, the Himalayas Mountains are too cold for insects to survive.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A True</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B False</p>
<p>3. Which of the following animals are insects?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Lobsters</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Scorpions</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Spiders</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Termites</p>	<p>4. Insects have three parts in their bodies. The three segments are _____, _____, and _____.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>5. What do we call the external skeleton covering an insect's body?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Shell</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Plastic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Bone</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Exoskeleton</p>	<p>6. Which of the following animals are not insects?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Spiders</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Bees</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Cockroaches</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Aphids</p>