

# Entomology For Kids!

## What is entomology?

Entomology is the scientific study of insects! It is a branch of zoology, which is the scientific study of animals.

**Fun Fact #1:**  
Butterflies  
taste with  
their feet!

## What exactly is an insect?

Insects have an exoskeleton, a three-part body (head, thorax

and abdomen), three pairs of jointed legs, compound eyes (an eye consisting of many small visual units) and one pair of antennae.

Insects are the most diverse group of animals on the planet!

They include more than a million described species, making up more than half of all known living

**Fun Fact #3:**  
Dragonflies  
have existed  
for 300 million  
years!

organisms. The total number of living species is believed to be between six

and ten million. Scientists estimate that over 90% of the animal life forms on Earth are insects! Insects do not include spiders; spiders are classified as arachnids, along with ticks, mites, and scorpions.

**Fun Fact #2:**  
Ants can lift  
50 times their  
own weight!

## Why are insects important?

Insects do many jobs that are important for keeping the environment healthy. They are pollinators, and without them many plants wouldn't grow, including some foods we eat, like

watermelons, grapes, oranges, and squash. Insects are also decomposers, turning rotting organic matter, like fallen leaves, into nutrients for the soil which

**Fun Fact #5:**  
A bee's wings  
beat 190  
times a  
second!

helps plants grow big! They're part of the food chain; many animals, large and small, eat insects for nutrients. In some cultures, people also eat insects! It's safe to say that our planet needs insects, whether they fly, crawl, squirm, or burrow.



## Entomology Word Search

G V V F Z R I Q T P U P A Z V J T E  
V Y Z H V D U D P M T G G H Y M H K  
M E T A M O R P H O S I S Q N Y O X  
T I E C K W Y B U C C O C O O N R V  
Z G S F U D H L A R V A M X F T A O  
M O U T H P A R T S A M M R C T X R  
X C W A N T E N N A J P L N F V Q G  
Y O R C R Q O J A A B D O M E N C A  
N M V M C B E X O S K E L E T O N N  
U S H Q Z Z D N E C T A R A X D T S  
A V R G C E M D A R W Q V P M O C H  
T W E Z C A N R V D I N Y M P H Z Q

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ABDOMEN  
ANTENNA  
COCOON  
EXOSKELETON  
LARVA

METAMORPHOSIS  
MOUTHPARTS  
NECTAR  
NYMPH  
ORGANS

PUPA  
THORAX

## Answers & Vocabulary

. . . . . P U P A . . . T .  
. . . . . H .  
M E T A M O R P H O S I S . . . O .  
. . . . . C O C O O N R .  
. . . . . L A R V A . . . A O  
M O U T H P A R T S . . . X R  
. . . A N T E N N A . . . G  
. . . . . A B D O M E N . A  
. . . . . E X O S K E L E T O N N  
. . . . . N E C T A R . . . S  
. . . . .  
. . . . . N Y M P H . .

**Abdomen:** In insects, the BACK section of its body, behind the thorax.

**Antenna:** A pair of feelers on the head of an insect.

**Cocoon:** The silky case that a caterpillar makes to protect itself for a time before it becomes a moth.

**Exoskeleton:** Hard covering like a suit of armor that protects the insect's body.

**Larva:** The stage of the life cycle in which a young insect is in a body form very different from the adult.

**Metamorphosis:** A series of major changes in an animal's body form during its life cycle.

**Mouthparts:** The parts of an insect's mouth.

**Nectar:** Sweet liquid that insects get from flowers.

**Nymph:** The stage of metamorphosis in which the young animal looks like the adult but may not have some of the adult features.

**Organs:** The heart, stomach and other parts that keep insects alive.

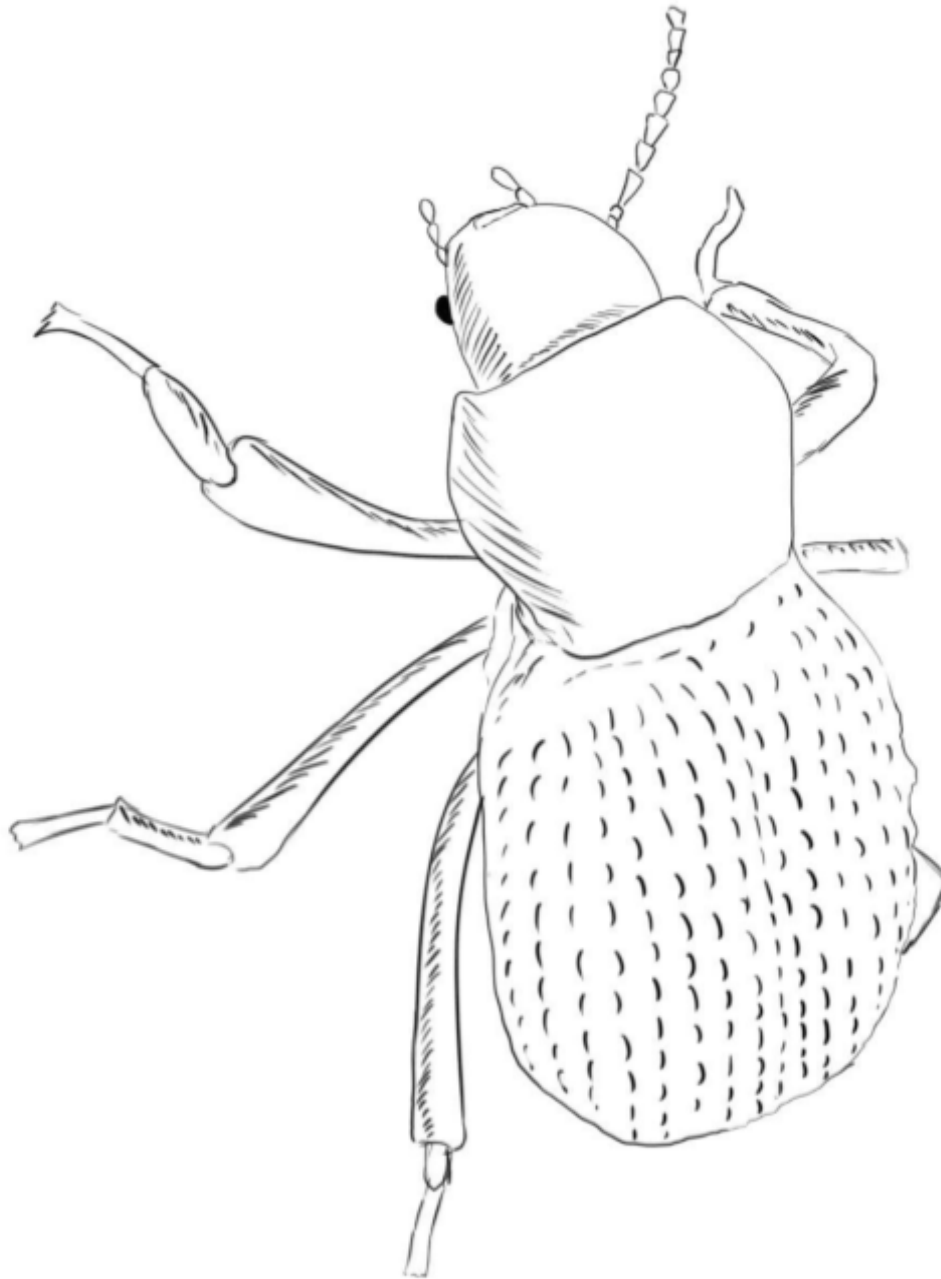
**Pupa:** The stage in which the body form changes from the larva to the adult.

**Thorax:** In insects, the MIDDLE body part between the head and abdomen.

Monarch butterfly migration patterns and habitats are in danger! Go to [monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org) to find out how YOU can help!

Have you ever seen an insect and wondered, "What's that bug?" Try checking out [whatsthatbug.com](http://whatsthatbug.com) to identify it and learn more!

# Death Feigning Beetle



# Madagascar Hissing Cockroach



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