

Usborne Nature Cards



# Bugs



Long feelers

Colourful 'eyes'  
on wings

Dark wing tips



# Bugs

These colourful, fact-filled cards show 30 common bugs to spot and identify.

Charming pictures on the front of the cards make it easy to recognize each bug.



On the back, there are bug facts and detailed sketches.

£5.99 (inc. VAT)



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# Wasp

Thick, black  
feelers or  
antennae

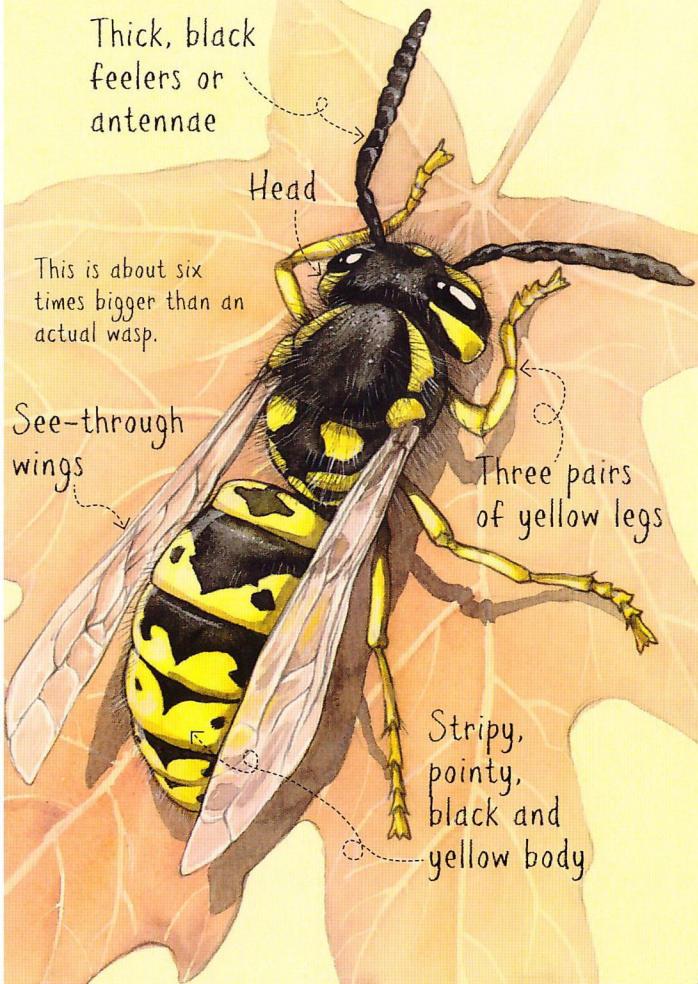
Head

This is about six  
times bigger than an  
actual wasp.

See-through  
wings

Three pairs  
of yellow legs

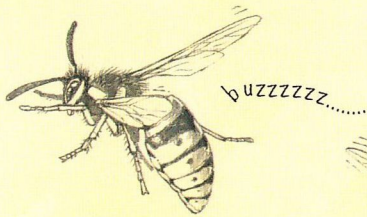
Stripy,  
pointy,  
black and  
yellow body



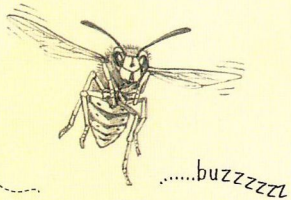




Wasps feed on nectar, fruit and insects. They also like sugary food and drink.

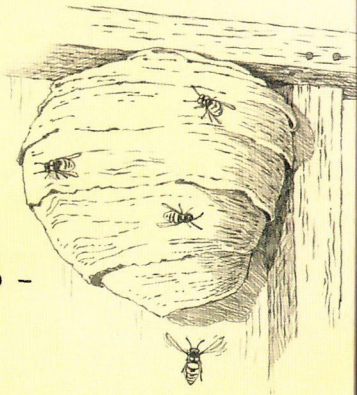


They make a buzzing sound while they fly.



Wasps build nests in dark places such as old animal burrows or garden sheds.

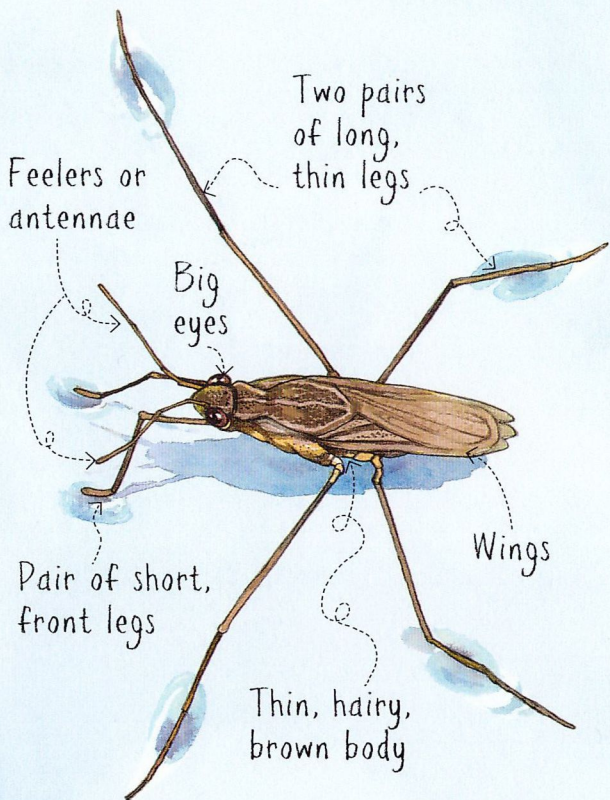
Don't disturb a wasp - it might sting you.



Creepy-crawly fact: Wasps' nests are made from chewed-up wood that they scrape off trees and fences.



# Pond skater



This is about five times bigger than an actual pond skater.



Look for pond skaters floating on ponds and lakes in spring and summer.

They push themselves across the water using their long back legs.

Pond skaters eat insects. They wait until one drops onto the water, then grab it using their front legs.



You might also see them jumping or flying away from predators.



Creepy-crawly fact: Pond skaters are covered in tiny hairs that sense when an insect falls on the water.

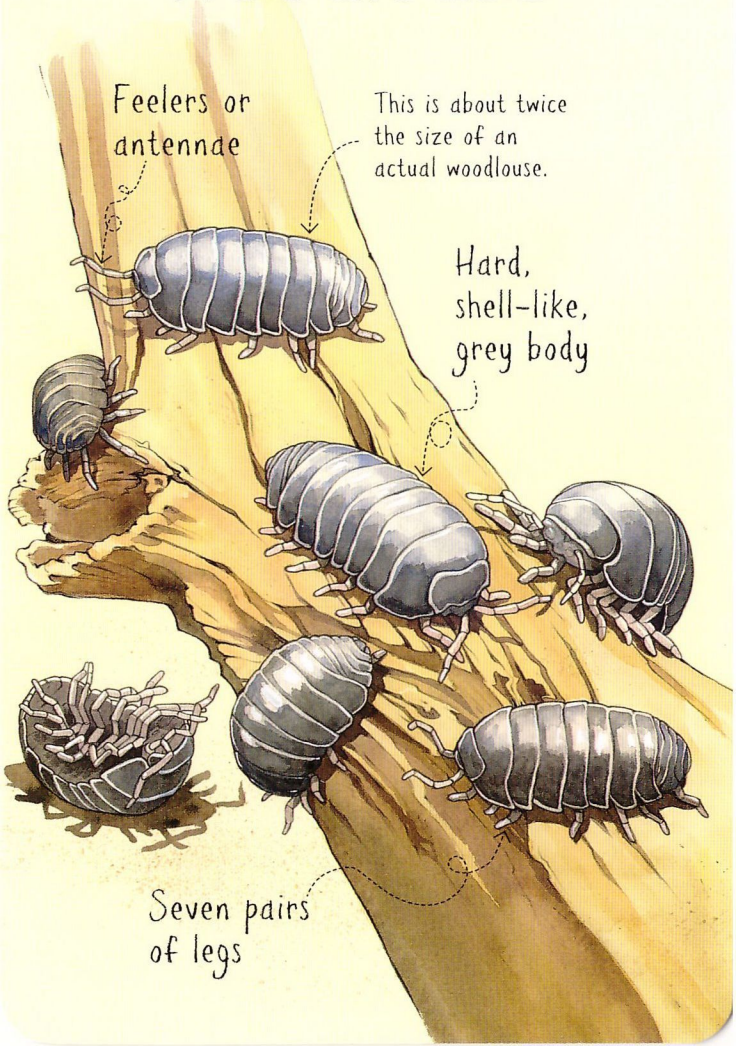
# Woodlouse

Feelers or antennae

This is about twice the size of an actual woodlouse.

Hard, shell-like, grey body

Seven pairs of legs



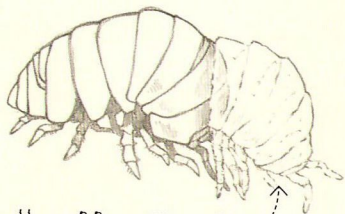




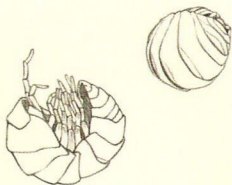
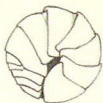
Look for woodlice in damp, dark places in parks or gardens.

If they're out in the open, they will quickly scuttle to find cover.

Woodlice shed their skin as they grow.



The old skin falls off, revealing new skin underneath.

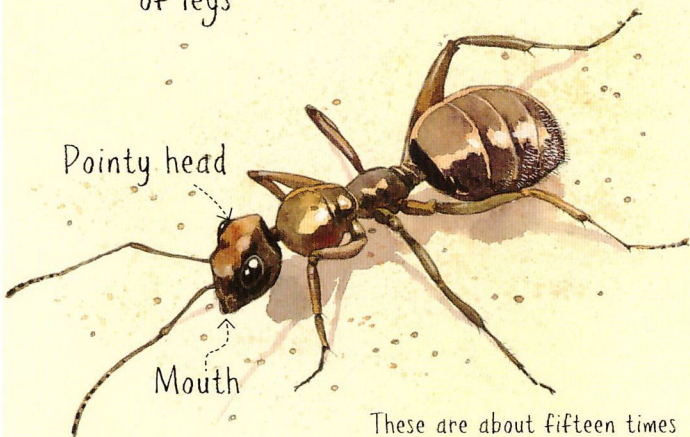


If you get too close to some types of woodlice, they roll up into balls to protect themselves.



Creepy-crawly fact: Some woodlice breathe through their legs.

# Garden ant



These are about fifteen times bigger than actual ants.



Look for ants scuttling around quickly on the ground.

They eat nectar, a sweet juice from flowers, and a sticky liquid made by insects called aphids.



Ants make their nests by digging tunnels in the ground.



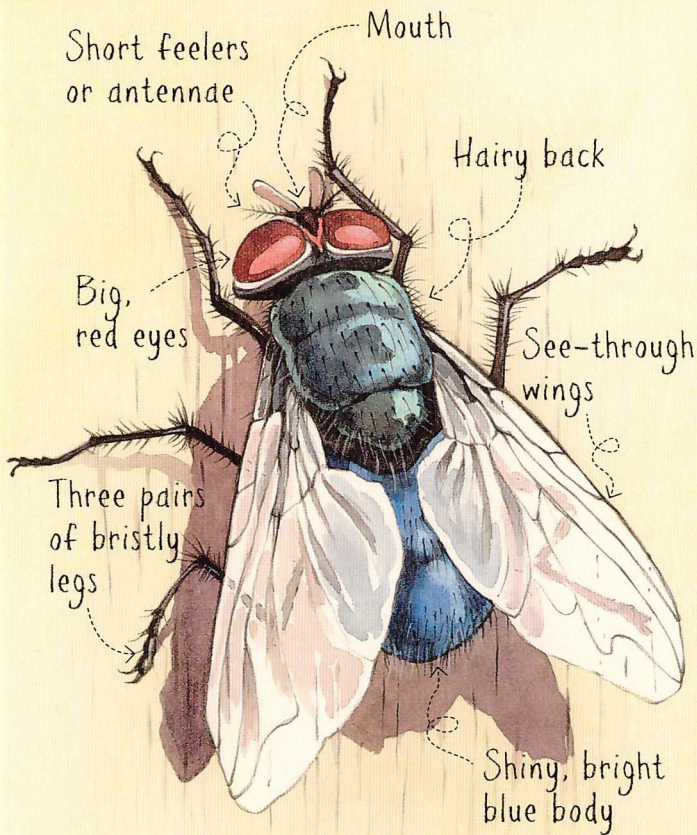
Male ants have wings. In late summer, they fly out of their nests in swarms.



Creepy-crawly fact: When an ant finds food, it leaves a smelly trail for other ants to follow.



# Bluebottle



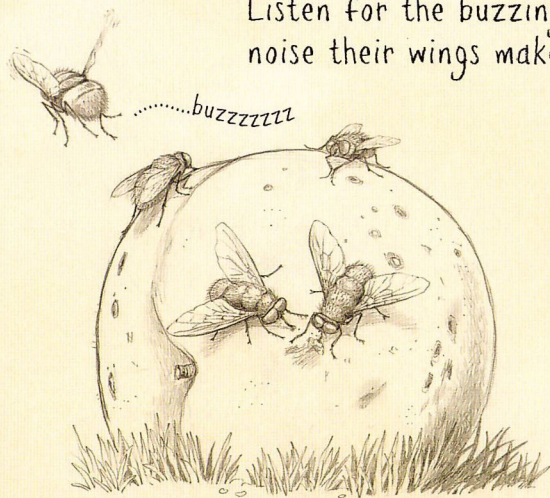
This is about five times bigger than an actual bluebottle.



Bluebottles are a type of fly.

You're likely to see them flying on a warm summer's day, looking for rotting food to eat.

Listen for the buzzing noise their wings make.



Bluebottles lay lots of eggs that hatch out into small, white young, called maggots.



Creepy-crawly fact: Bluebottle eggs can turn into adults in as little as 10 days.

# Bumblebee

This is the same size as an actual bumblebee.

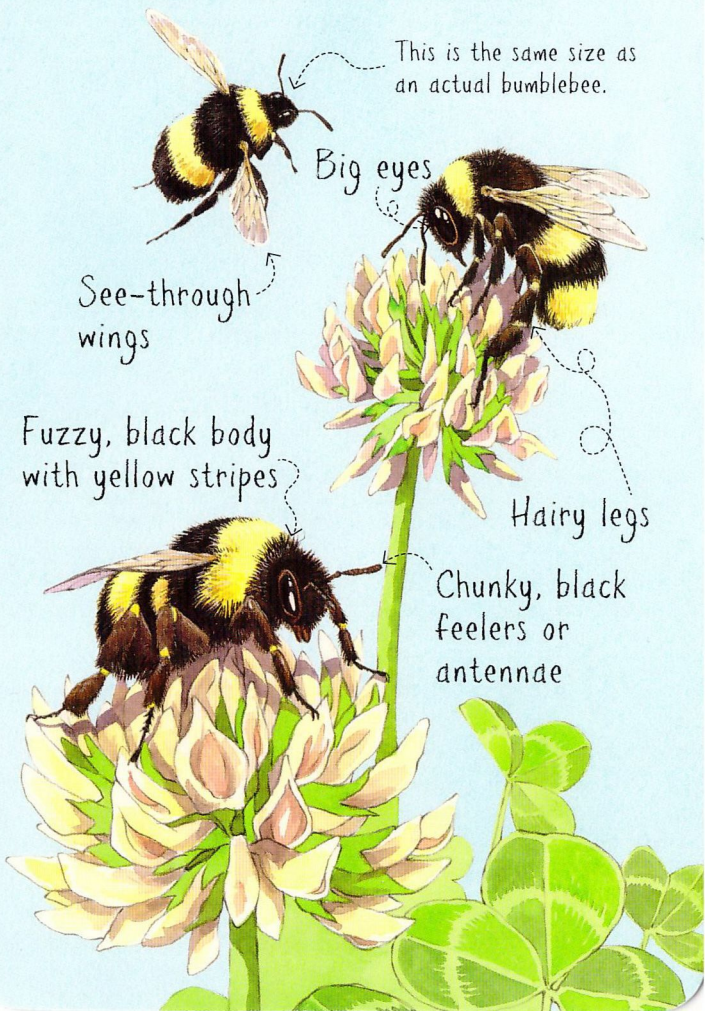
Big eyes

See-through wings

Fuzzy, black body with yellow stripes

Hairy legs

Chunky, black feelers or antennae







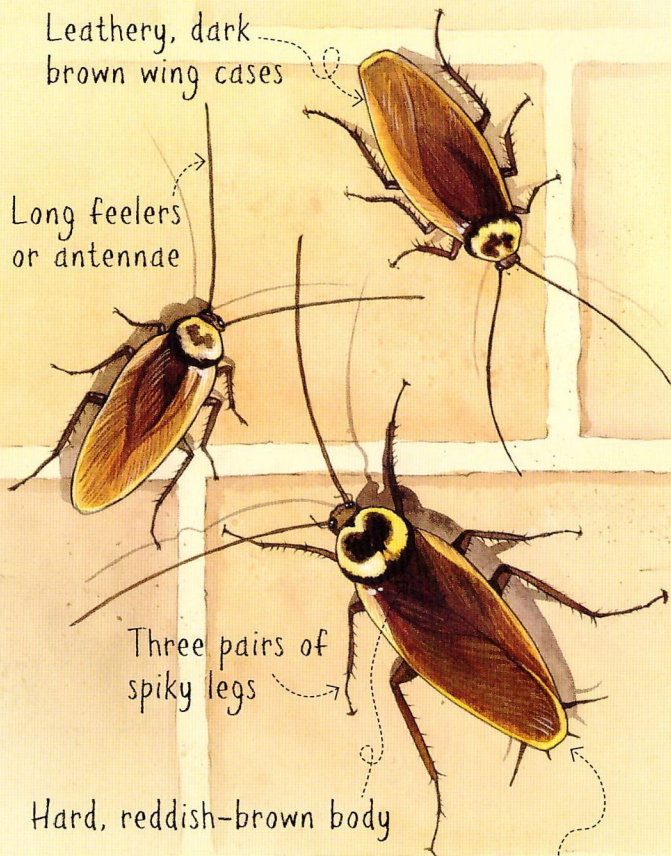
# Cockroach

Leathery, dark brown wing cases

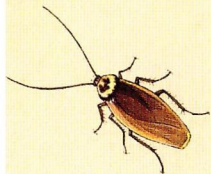
Long feelers or antennae

Three pairs of spiky legs

Hard, reddish-brown body



This is the same size as an actual cockroach.

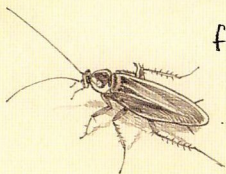


Cockroaches live in warm, damp places. They often spend the winter inside buildings.

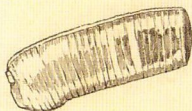
Look for them when they come out to feed at night. They eat almost anything.



Cockroaches can run very fast, and fly in hot weather.



Female cockroaches lay cases full of eggs every month.



Creepy-crawly fact: Cockroaches have been on the Earth for over 300 million years.



# Clothes moth

Long, shiny,  
coppery-brown  
wings

Furry,  
brown body

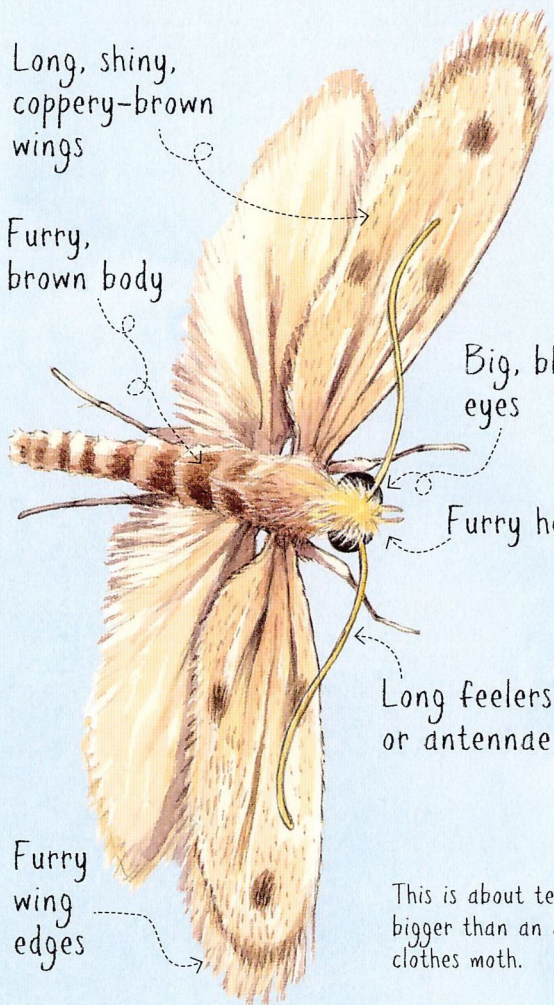
Big, black  
eyes

Furry head

Long feelers  
or antennae

Furry  
wing  
edges

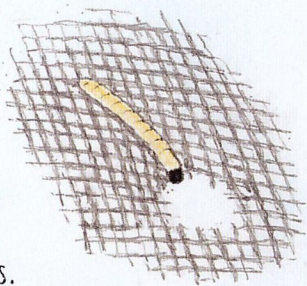
This is about ten times  
bigger than an actual  
clothes moth.





Clothes moths live in dark places, such as animal nests and in people's houses.

Their caterpillars have creamy bodies and brown heads.



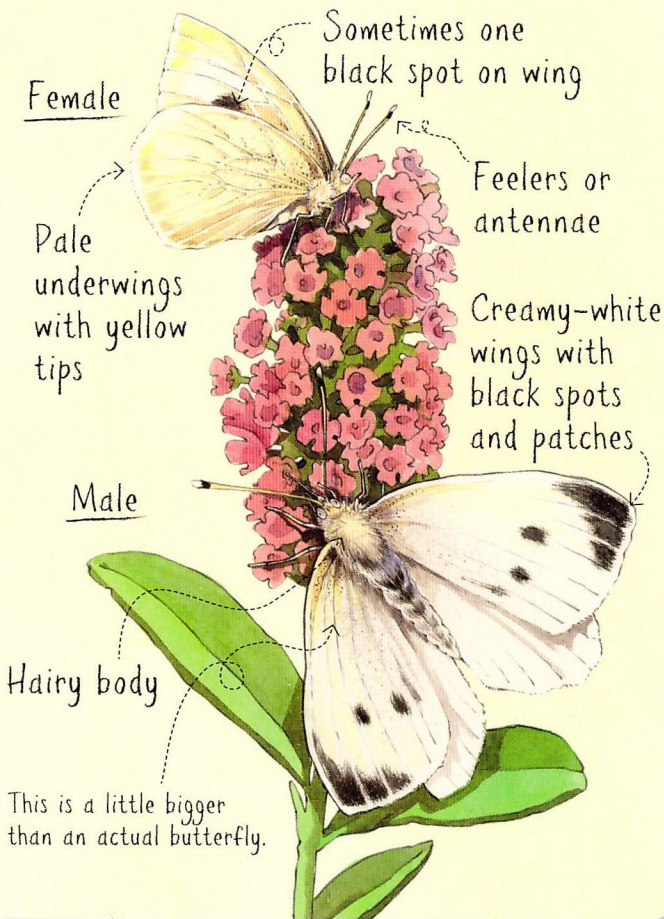
They eat feathers, animal hair, and clothes and carpets.

Clothes moth caterpillars make a tube from what they've eaten to hide from predators.



Creepy-crawly fact: Adult clothes moths only live long enough to lay eggs. Most of them don't have mouths, so can't eat.

# Cabbage white butterfly



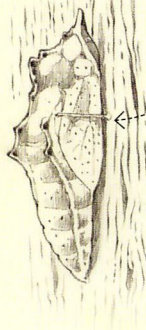




Look for cabbage white butterflies flitting around flowers in summer.

They lay yellow eggs on the bottoms of leaves.

Their caterpillars are green and yellow. They eat leafy, green plants.



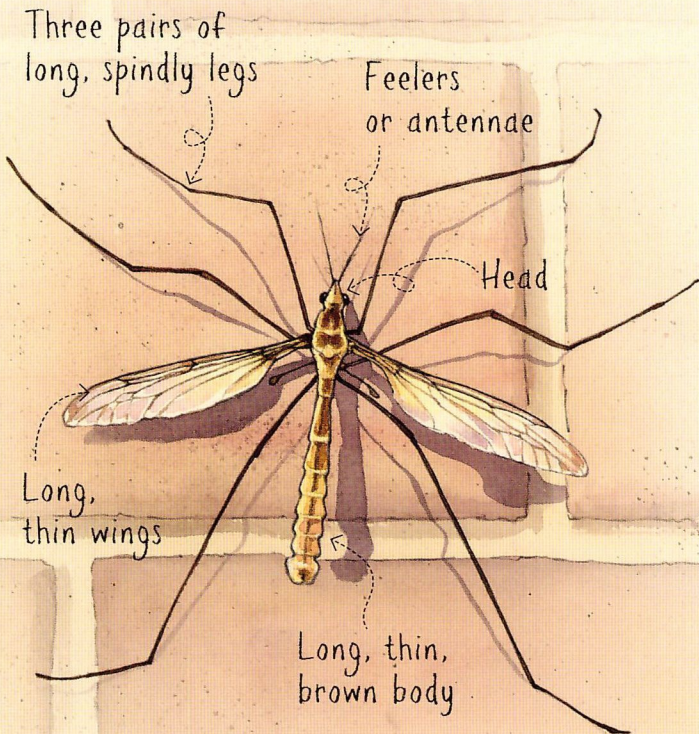
Chrysalis

In winter, each caterpillar wraps itself in a case or chrysalis. Look for chrysalises on fences or tree trunks.



Creepy-crawly fact: Cabbage white butterflies can fly hundreds of miles.

# Daddy-long-legs



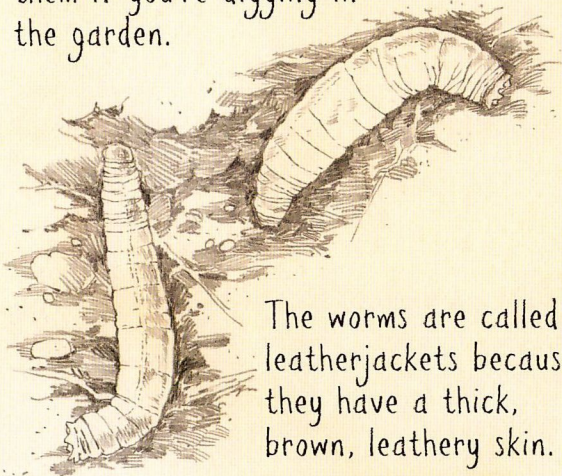
This is the same size as an actual daddy-long-legs.



Look for daddy-long-legs in late summer. They wobble about in the air as they fly.

If they're indoors, they will fly towards the light.

Their young look like worms and live in the ground. You might see them if you're digging in the garden.



The worms are called leatherjackets because they have a thick, brown, leathery skin.



Creepy-crawly fact: Adult daddy-long-legs only live for 2 weeks.



# Cricket

This is about four times bigger than an actual cricket.

Very long feelers or antennae

Big eyes

Stripe on head

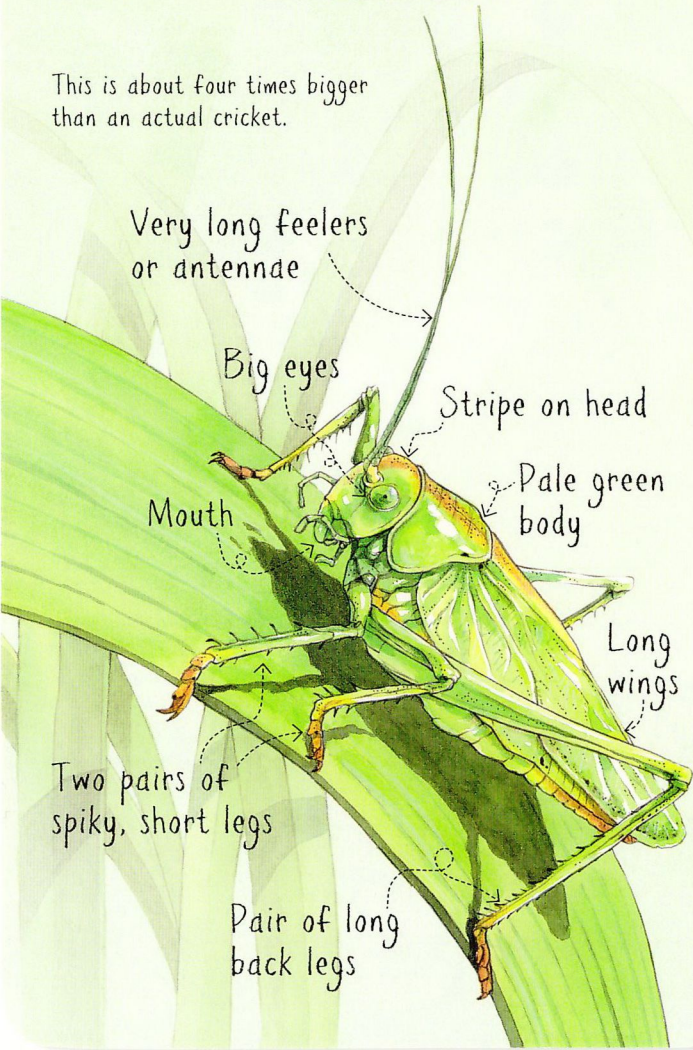
Pale green body

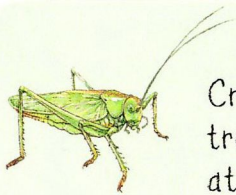
Mouth

Long wings

Two pairs of spiky, short legs

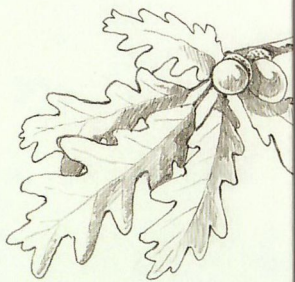
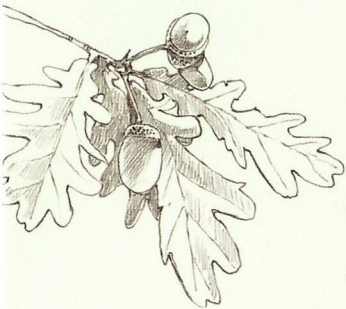
Pair of long back legs





Crickets live in bushes and trees. They come out to feed at night.

Their springy back legs mean that they can jump from one branch to another.



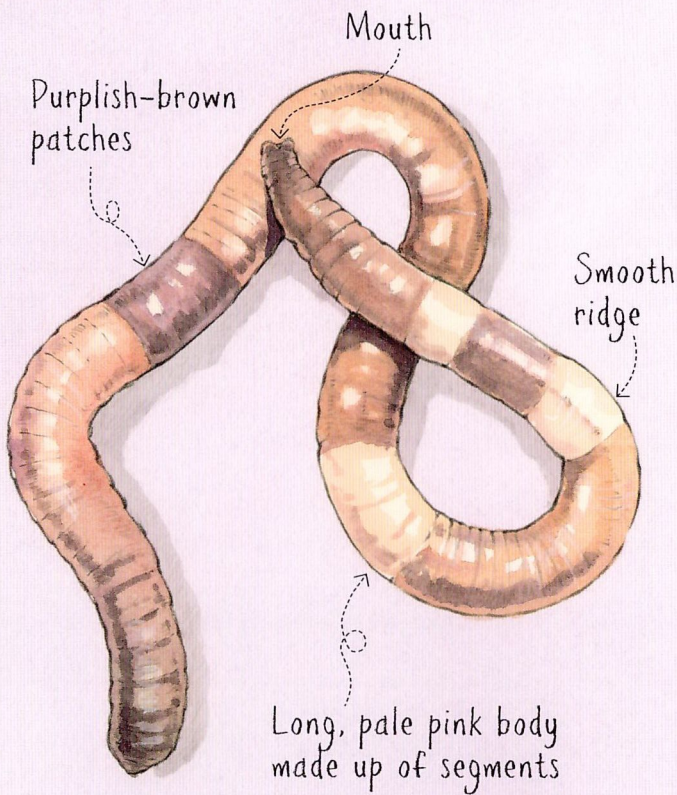
They are attracted to bright lights, so you might see them in your house or on windows.

Some crickets rub their wings together to make a high, chirping noise.



Creepy-crawly fact: Crickets hear through their front legs.

# Earthworm



This is the same size as an actual earthworm.

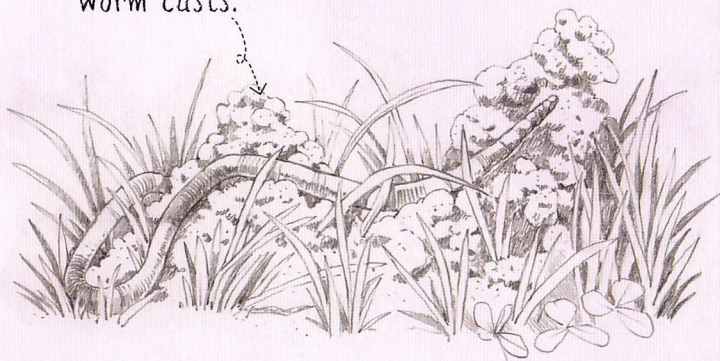




Earthworms live in damp soil. You can see them when they burrow up to the surface.

Worms grip onto the soil using tiny hairs all over their bodies.

They eat rotting plants and leave behind squiggly droppings called worm casts.

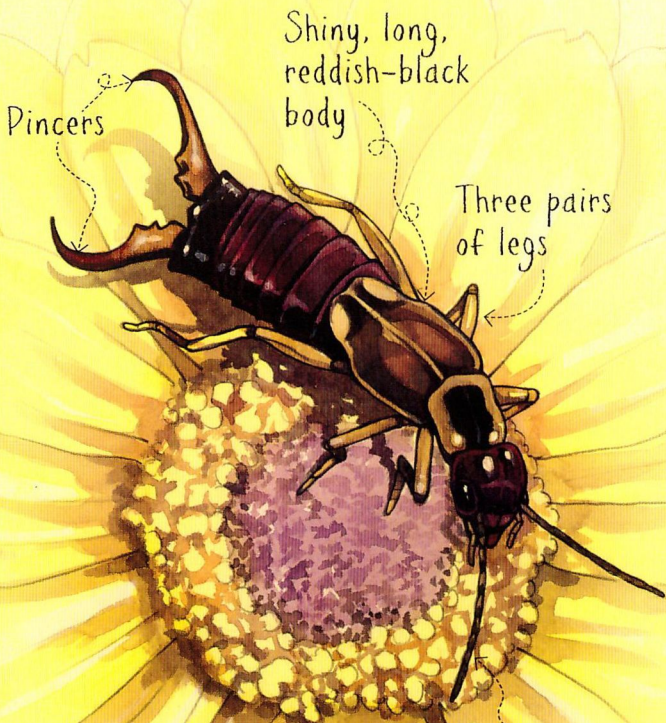


Their droppings are good for the soil and help things to grow in it.



Creepy-crawly fact: If the soil gets too dry, earthworms roll into balls and go into a deep sleep until it rains again.

# Earwig



Pincers

Shiny, long,  
reddish-black  
body

Three pairs  
of legs

Long feelers  
or antennae

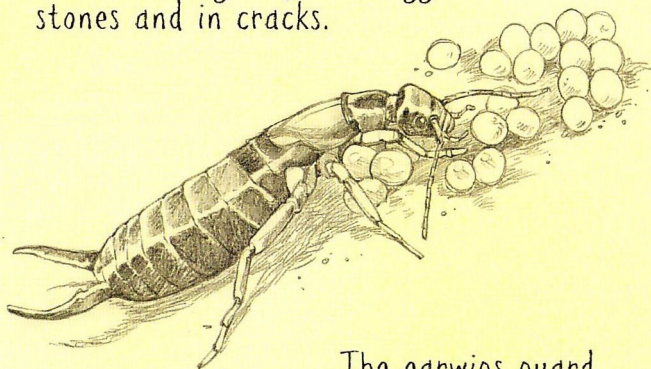
This is about five times bigger  
than an actual earwig.



You can find earwigs in damp places in gardens, parks and woods.

They sleep during the day and come out to feed at night. They eat flowers, insects and rotting plants.

Female earwigs lay their eggs under stones and in cracks.



The earwigs guard their young until they're old enough to look after themselves.



Creepy-crawly fact: Earwigs use their pincers to scare away predators.



# European black slug

These slugs can also  
be orange or brown.

Slimy, bumpy, black body

Eyes

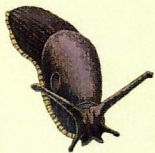
Breathing  
hole

Head

Mouth

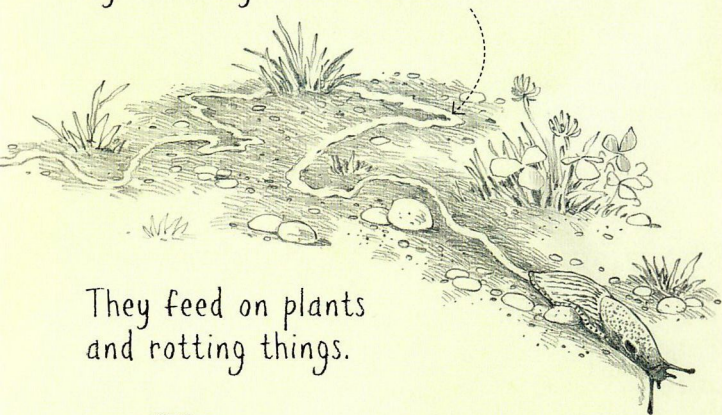
This is the same size  
as an actual slug.



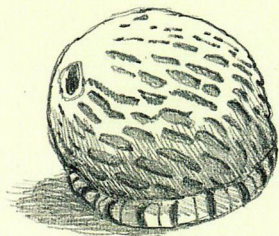


Look for slugs in dark, damp places. They come out to eat at night.

You can tell where a slug has been by the slimy trail it leaves behind.



They feed on plants and rotting things.



To try to stop other animals eating it, a slug rolls into a ball and covers itself in a nasty-tasting liquid.



Creepy-crawly fact: Slugs follow their old slime trails to find food.

# Emperor dragonfly



This is a little smaller than  
an actual dragonfly.



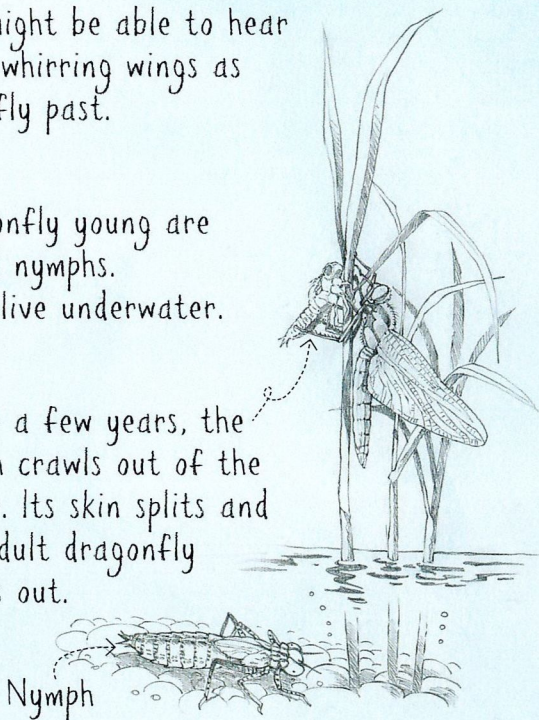


Look for emperor dragonflies swooping over ponds and streams, catching insects.

You might be able to hear their whirring wings as they fly past.

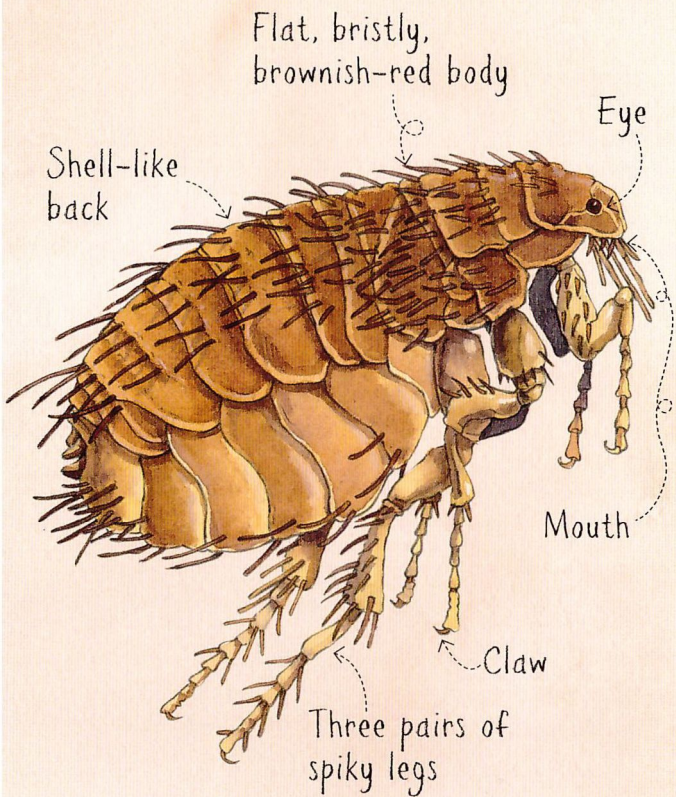
Dragonfly young are called nymphs. They live underwater.

After a few years, the nymph crawls out of the water. Its skin splits and the adult dragonfly climbs out.



Creepy-crawly fact: Male emperor dragonflies spend most of their lives flying. They hardly ever land.

# Flea



This is about 40 times bigger than an actual flea.



Fleas are tiny insects that live on animals and sometimes people. They cling on using their spiny claws.

They feed by biting skin, then sucking up the blood.

Fleas have flat bodies and can move around easily between animal hairs.



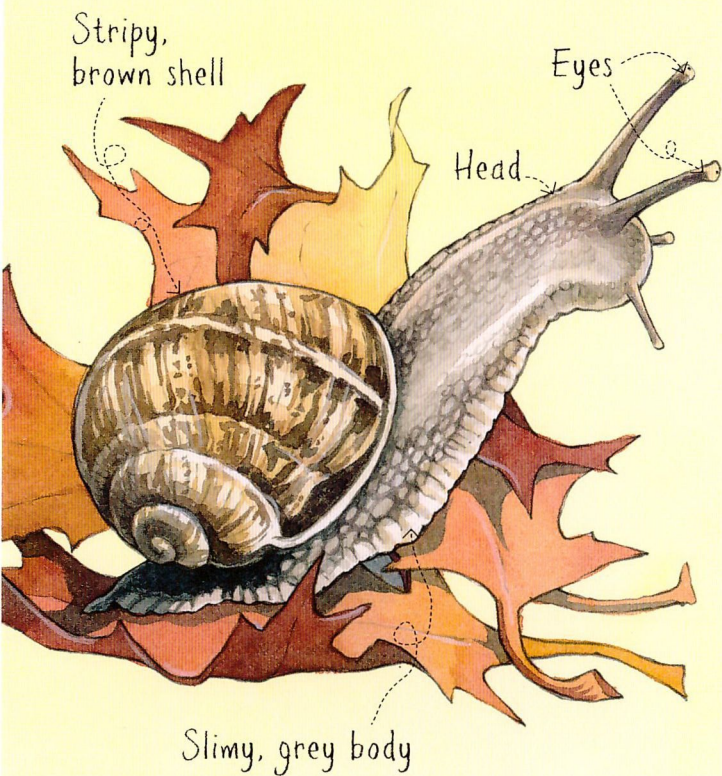
They have springy legs and can jump from one animal to another.



Creepy-crawly fact: Fleas can jump 100 times their own height.



# Garden snail



This is a little bigger than an actual snail.



It's easiest to spot snails during the day when it's wet, or on damp ground at night.



You might find snails under rocks and logs, too.

They make lots of slime as they travel. This helps them to slide easily over rough ground.



Snails use their spiky tongues to rip up and eat plants and rotting things.



Creepy-crawly fact: Snails hide inside their shells to protect themselves against predators.

# Grasshopper

Thin feelers  
or antennae

Big eyes

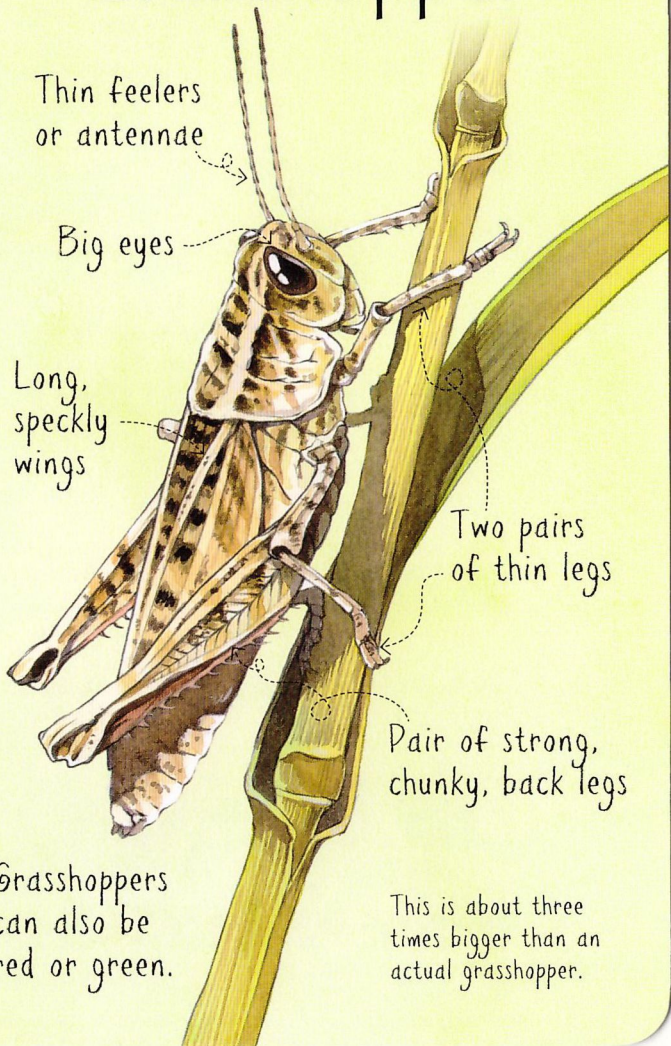
Long,  
speckly  
wings

Two pairs  
of thin legs

Pair of strong,  
chunky, back legs

Grasshoppers  
can also be  
red or green.

This is about three  
times bigger than an  
actual grasshopper.

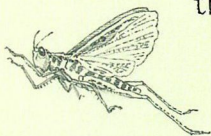




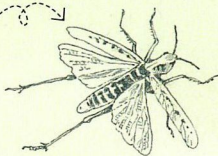


You're likely to hear grasshoppers before you see them.

Listen for the high, chirping 'song' they make by rubbing their legs and wings together.

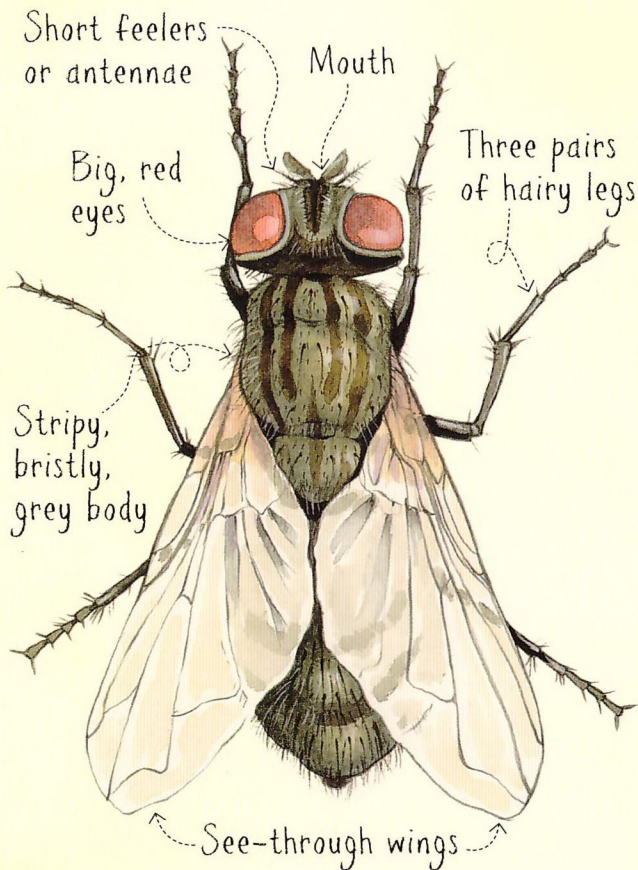


You might see grasshoppers jumping or flying out of long grass and bushes in parks and woods.



Creepy-crawly fact: Grasshoppers can jump up to 20 times their own length.

# Housefly



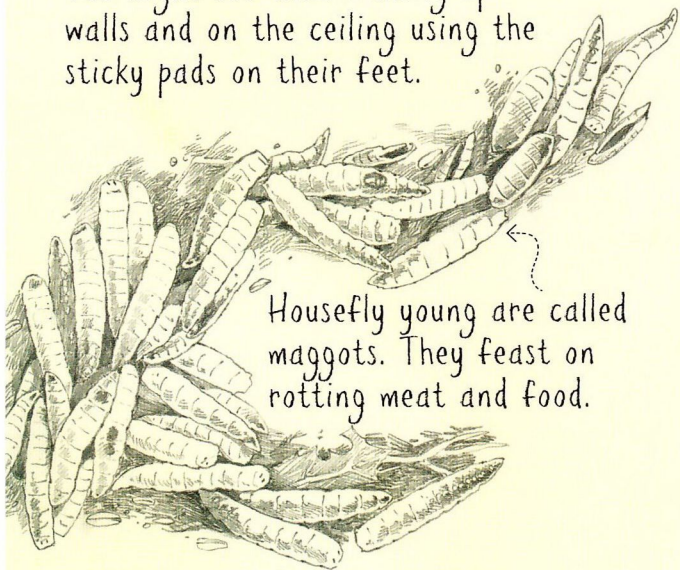
This is about ten times bigger  
than an actual housefly.



Look for houseflies in summer, buzzing around rotting rubbish looking for food.

They eat liquid food by sucking it up with their spongy mouths.

You might see them walking up walls and on the ceiling using the sticky pads on their feet.



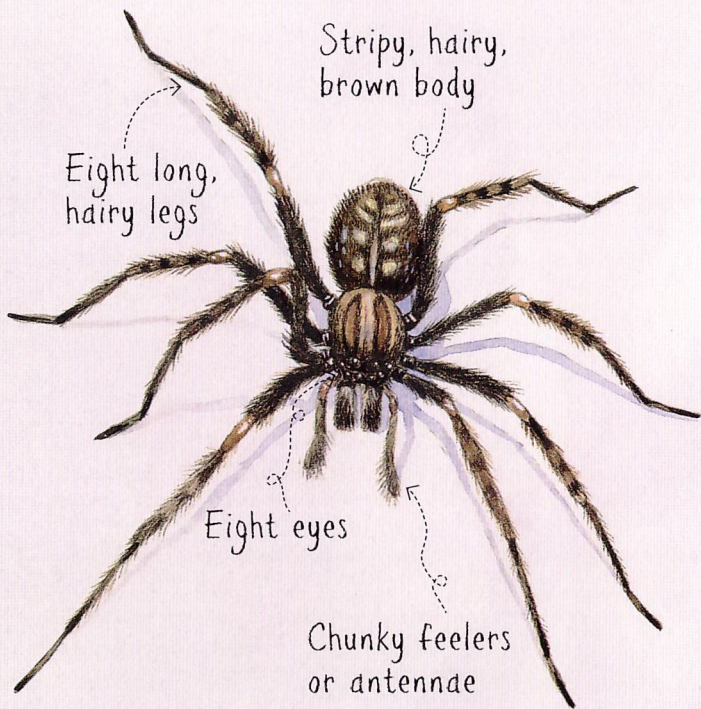
Housefly young are called maggots. They feast on rotting meat and food.



Creepy-crawly fact: Houseflies taste and smell through the hairs on their feet.



# House spider



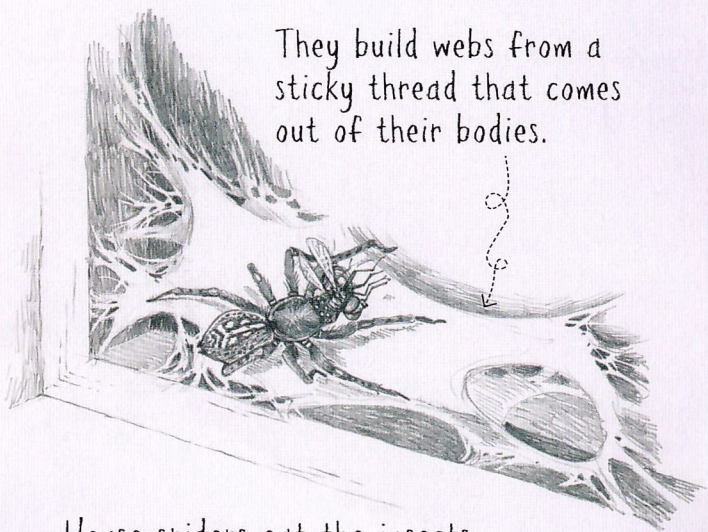
This is about three times bigger than an actual house spider.



House spiders live in warm, dry places, such as inside houses or sheds.

You might see them scuttling quickly across the floor.

They build webs from a sticky thread that comes out of their bodies.



House spiders eat the insects that get stuck in their webs.



Creepy-crawly fact: Male spiders do a dance, by waving their front legs around, to try to attract females.

# Honey bee

See-through wings

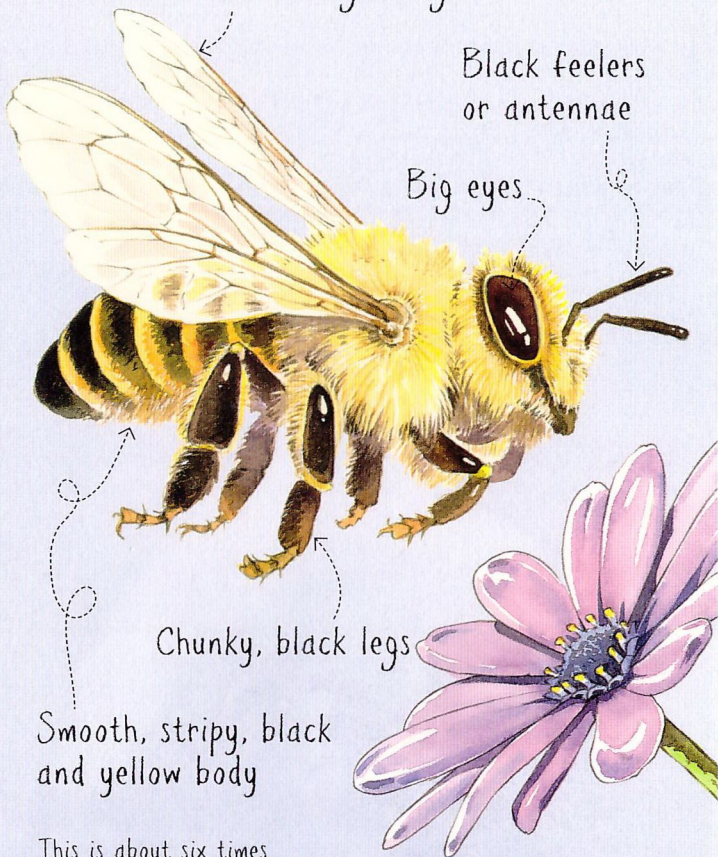
Black feelers  
or antennae

Big eyes

Chunky, black legs

Smooth, stripy, black  
and yellow body

This is about six times  
bigger than an actual honey bee.

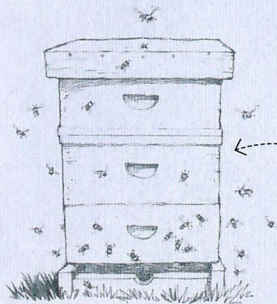






You're most likely to see honey bees in summer, collecting nectar and pollen from flowers.

Honey bees live in big nests that hang from trees or walls.



← They also make nests in man-made boxes, called hives.

Every spring, some honey bees look for new nests. They gather in big groups, called swarms.



Creepy-crawly fact: Bees turn some of the nectar and pollen they collect into honey that people can eat.

# Ladybird

Feelers or antennae

Mouth

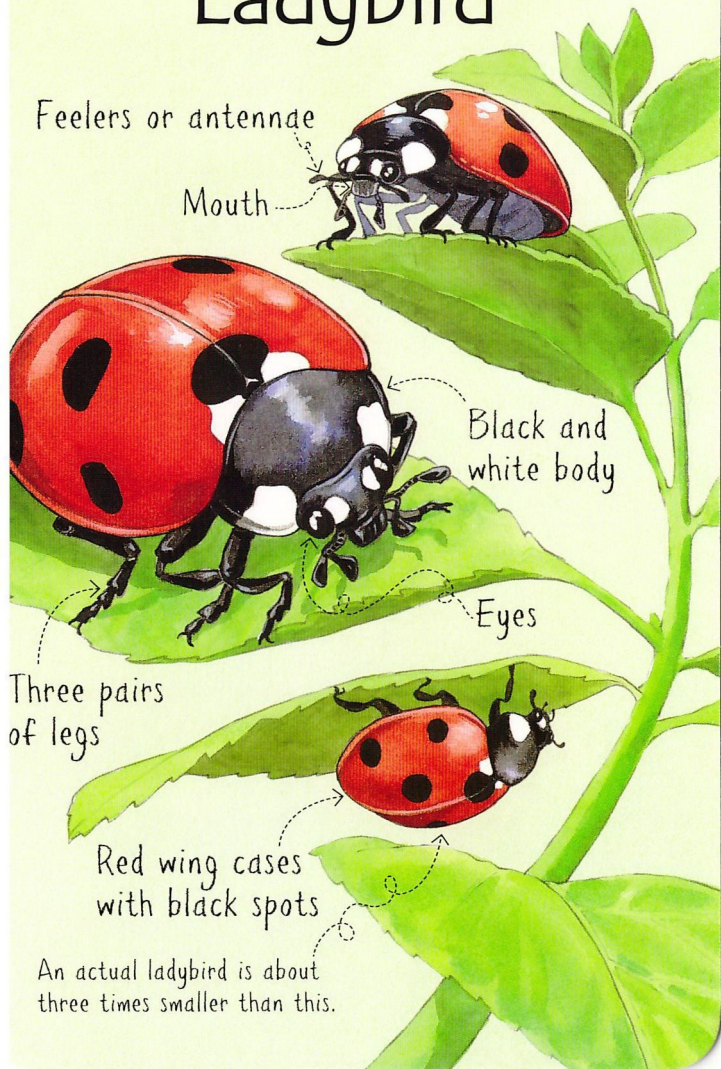
Black and white body

Eyes

Three pairs of legs

Red wing cases with black spots

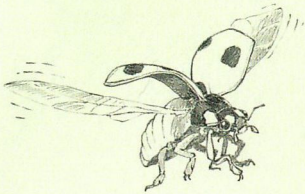
An actual ladybird is about three times smaller than this.





You can find ladybirds on plants in gardens and parks. At night, they crawl into little holes to sleep.

Most ladybirds eat small insects called aphids.



Try to spot ladybirds while they're flying.

Different types of ladybirds have different numbers of spots. These are the most common ones.

Two spot



Seven spot



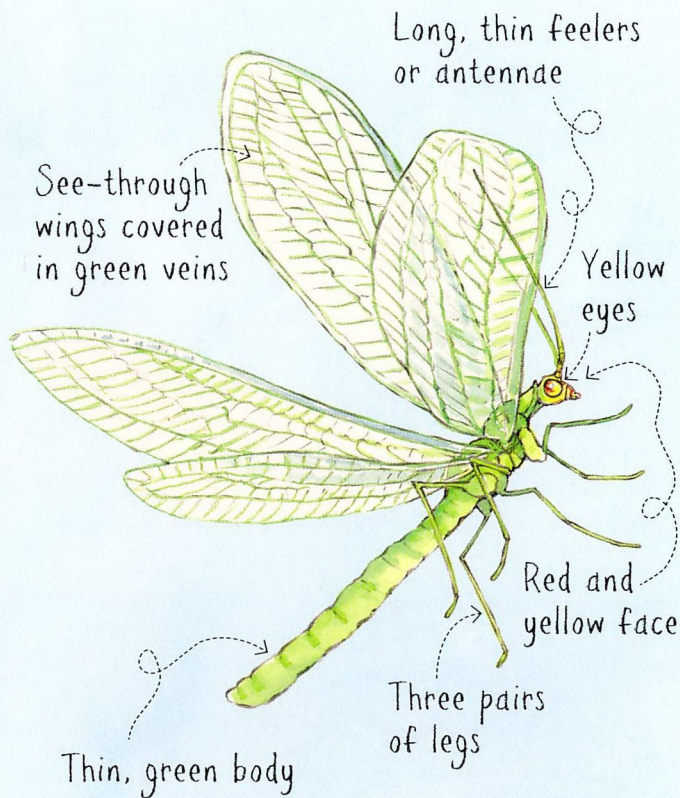
Twenty-two spot



Creepy-crawly fact: When a ladybird is scared, it oozes orange liquid out of its legs.



# Lacewing



This is about five times bigger than an actual lacewing.



You can see lacewings flying around gardens and hedges in spring and summer.

They lay tiny eggs on the undersides of leaves covered in insects, called aphids.



When the young hatch, they feast on the aphids.

Lacewings often hide away during the winter in garden sheds or houses. Their bodies turn brownish-pink.



Creepy-crawly fact: Lacewings' green bodies make them hard to spot on plants. This helps to hide them from predators.

# Hoverfly

See-through wings

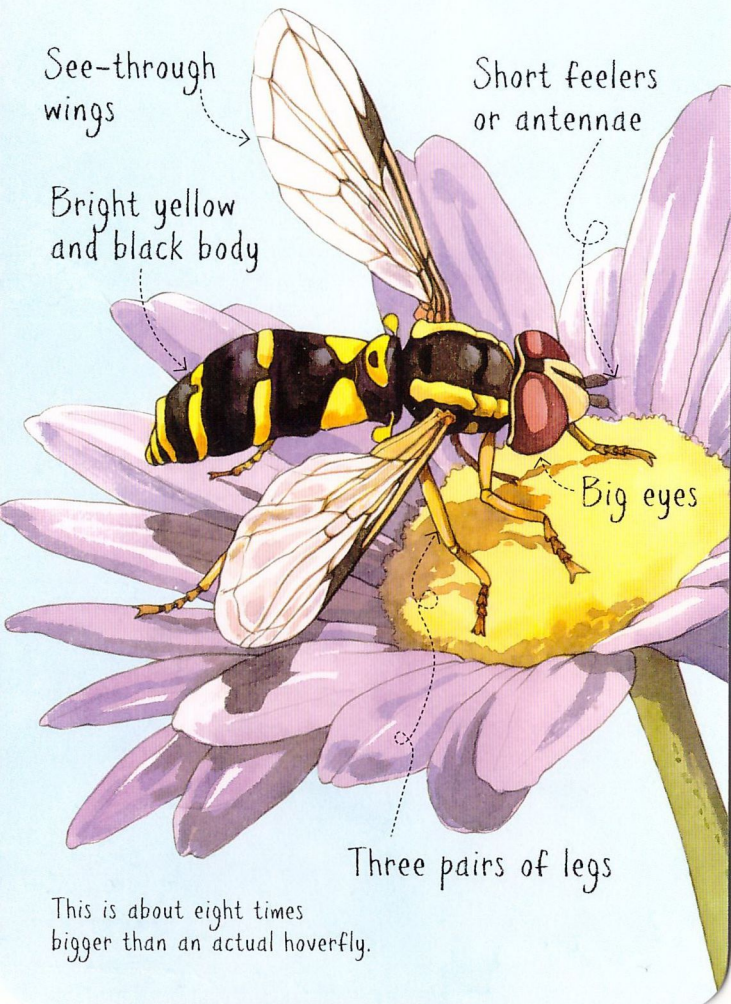
Short feelers or antennae

Bright yellow and black body

Big eyes

Three pairs of legs

This is about eight times bigger than an actual hoverfly.





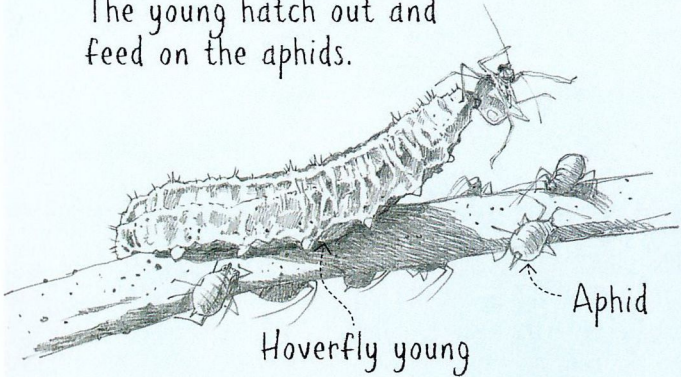


Look for hoverflies in summer,  
darting from flower to flower.

They can hover in the  
air by flapping their  
wings very fast.



Hoverflies lay their eggs near plants  
covered in insects, called aphids.  
The young hatch out and  
feed on the aphids.



Creepy-crawly fact: Hoverflies look a bit like wasps  
but they can't sting.

# Mosquito

Bristly feelers  
or antennae

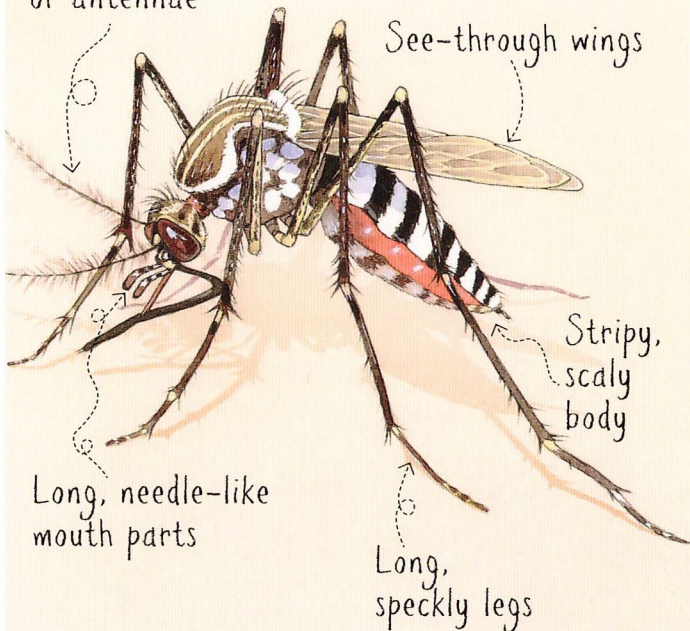
See-through wings

Stripy,  
scaly  
body

Long, needle-like  
mouth parts

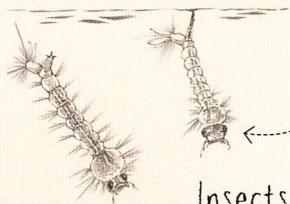
Long,  
speckly legs

This is about ten times bigger  
than an actual mosquito.



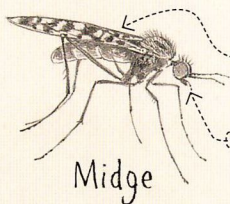


Mosquitoes live near water.  
Listen for their high-pitched  
whine as they fly.



Young mosquitoes  
live underwater.

Insects called midges look a  
bit like mosquitoes. It can be  
hard to tell them apart.



Midge

Spotty wings

Short mouth parts

Mosquitoes and midges eat nectar.  
The females also feed on animal blood.



Creepy-crawly fact: Female mosquitoes and  
midges can't lay eggs until they've fed on an  
animal's blood.



# Peacock butterfly

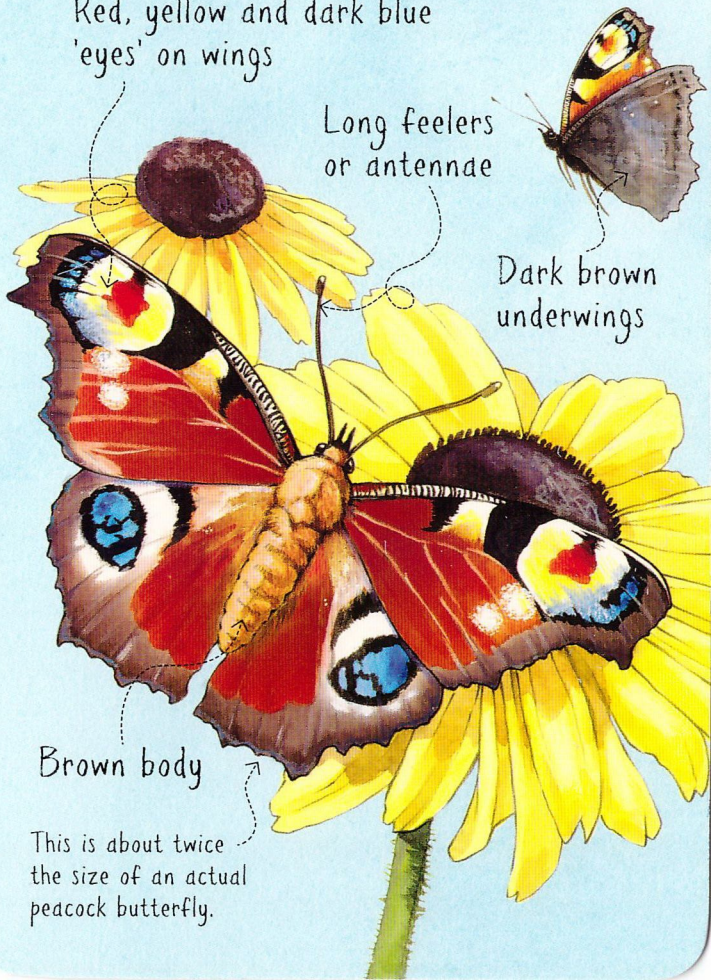
Red, yellow and dark blue  
'eyes' on wings

Long feelers  
or antennae

Dark brown  
underwings

Brown body

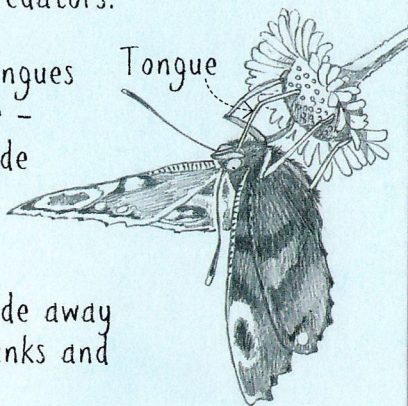
This is about twice  
the size of an actual  
peacock butterfly.



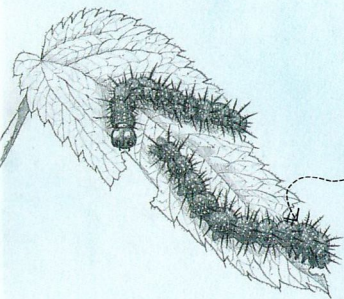


The markings on peacock butterflies' wings look like eyes. These help to scare away predators.

They use their tongues to suck up nectar - a sweet liquid made by flowers.



In winter, they hide away in hollow tree trunks and old buildings.



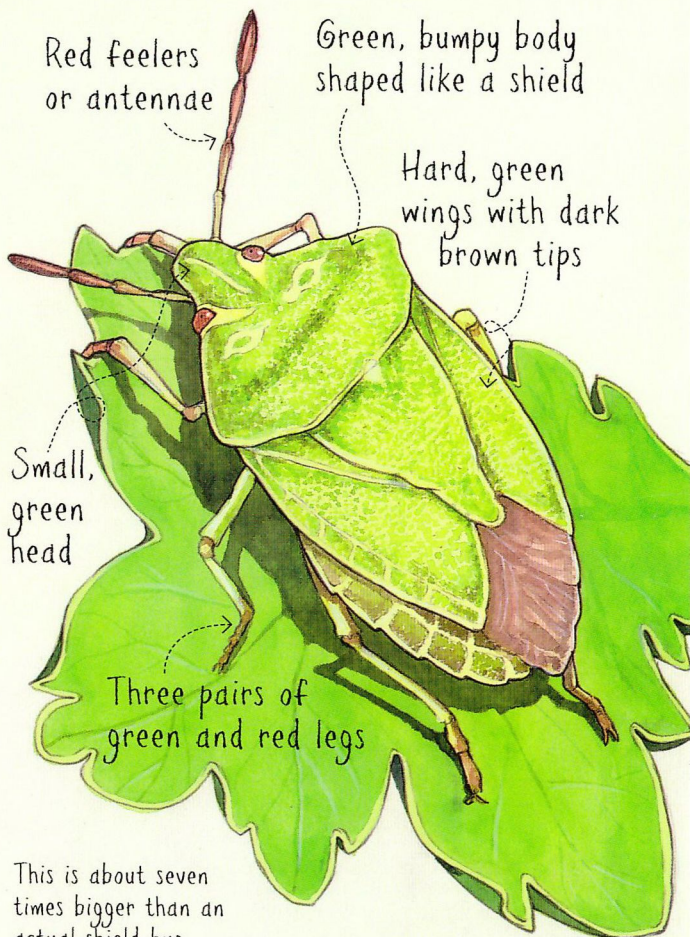
Peacock caterpillars are black and spiky.

They eat stinging nettle leaves.



Creepy-crawly fact: When they're hiding in winter, peacock butterflies close their wings. This makes them look like dead leaves.

# Shield bug



Red feelers  
or antennae

Green, bumpy body  
shaped like a shield

Hard, green  
wings with dark  
brown tips

Small,  
green  
head

Three pairs of  
green and red legs

This is about seven  
times bigger than an  
actual shield bug.

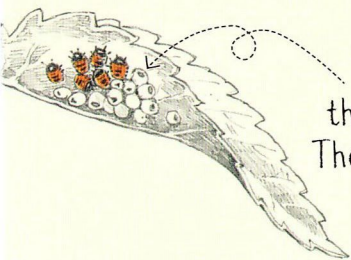




You can see shield bugs crawling over green plants in summer, eating the leaves and sap.



Look for them flying, too.



They lay their eggs on the undersides of leaves. The young, called nymphs, are red and black.

In winter, shield bugs turn greenish-brown and hide away under dead leaves.



Creepy-crawly fact: Shield bugs are sometimes called stink bugs because they make a nasty smell when they're scared.

# Stag beetle

Crooked feelers  
or antennae

Male

Big jaws

Shiny, black  
wing cases

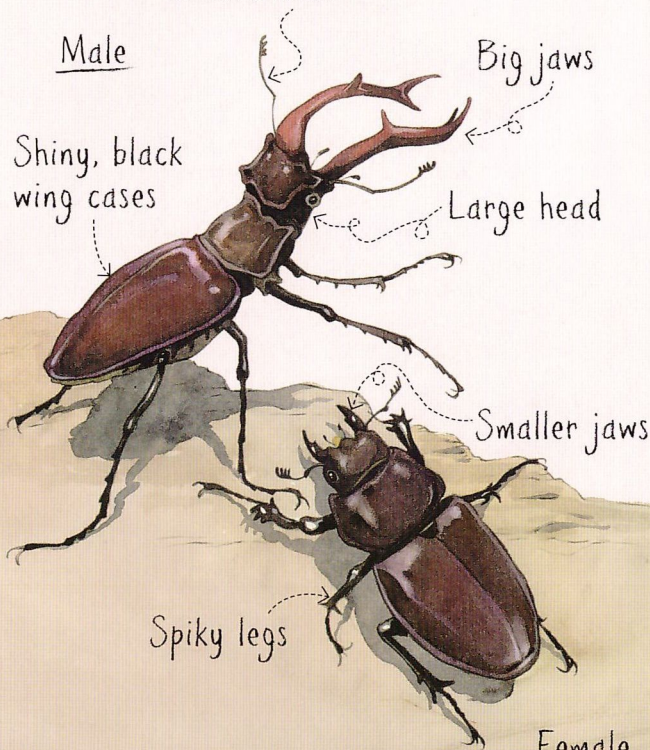
Large head

Smaller jaws

Spiky legs

Female

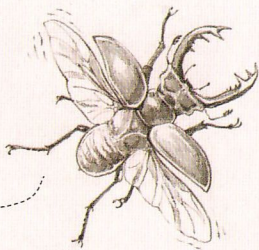
These are the same size as  
actual stag beetles.





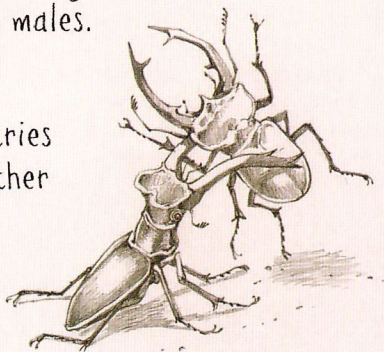
Stag beetles are big beetles.  
You can find them in and  
around woods.

Try to spot stag beetles  
when they're flying in  
the late afternoon or  
early evening.



Male beetles have big jaws that  
look like antlers. They use them  
to wrestle other males.

Each beetle tries  
to flip the other  
one over.



Creepy-crawly fact: Adult stag beetles don't eat.  
They only drink plant sap or fruit juice.



# Small tortoiseshell butterfly

Small blue patches along wing edges

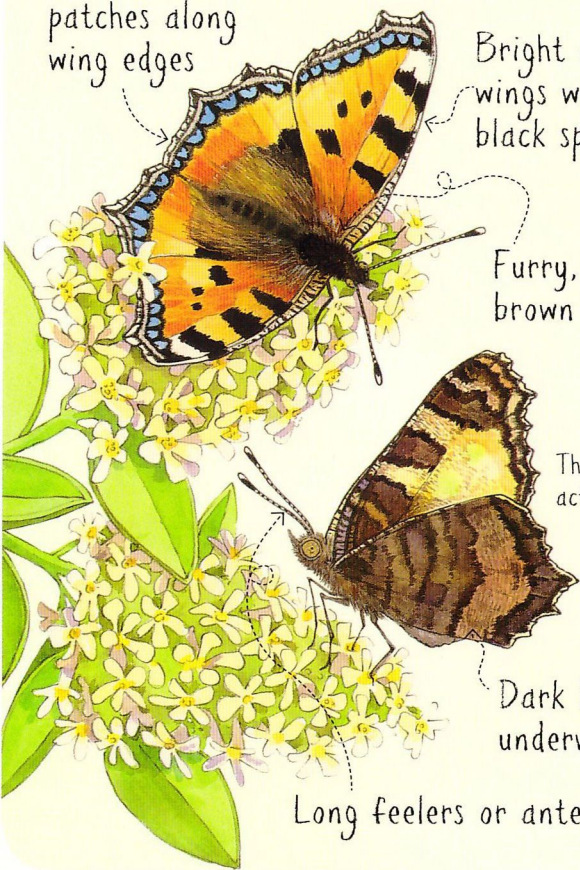
Bright orange wings with black spots

Furry, brown body

This is about actual size.

Dark brown underwings

Long feelers or antennae

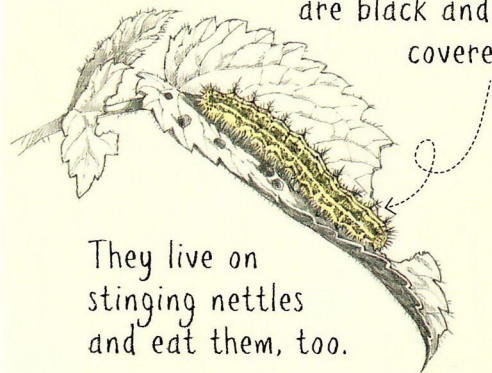




Look for colourful tortoiseshell butterflies on flowers in the summer.

They quickly flap their wings to show flashes of colour. This scares away predators.

Tortoiseshell caterpillars are black and yellow and covered in spikes.



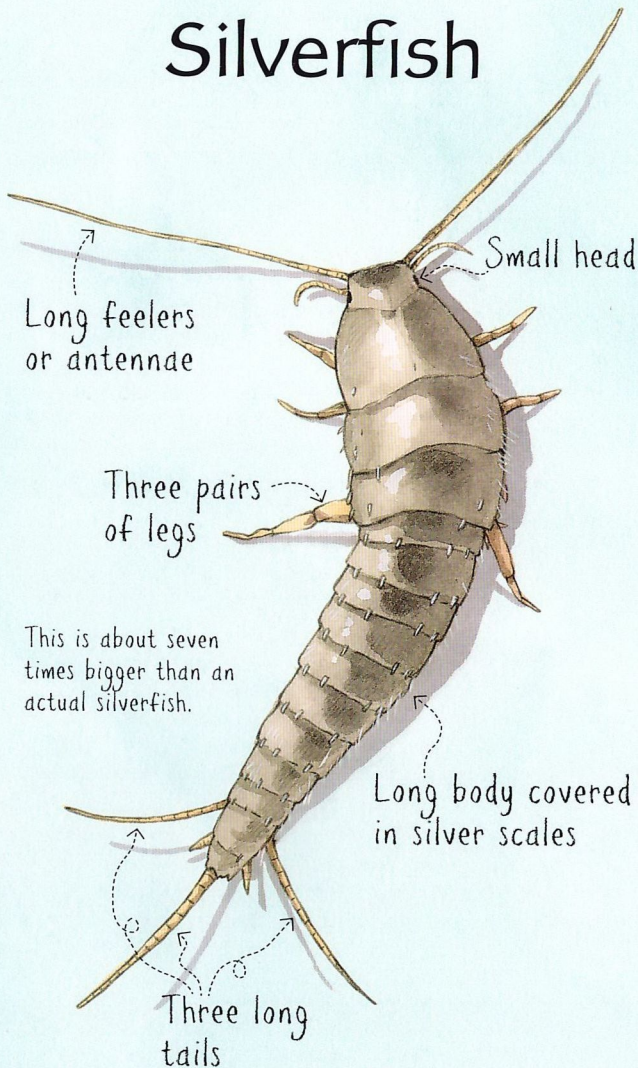
They live on stinging nettles and eat them, too.

In winter, tortoiseshell butterflies hide away in sheds and garages.



Creepy-crawly fact: Tortoiseshell caterpillars spin a web around leaves to shelter themselves from the cold and rain.

# Silverfish



Long feelers  
or antennae

Small head

Three pairs  
of legs

This is about seven  
times bigger than an  
actual silverfish.

Long body covered  
in silver scales

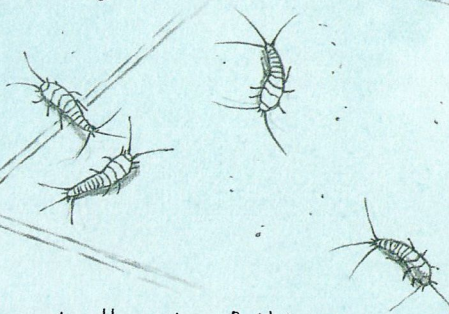
Three long  
tails





Silverfish live indoors in warm, damp places, such as kitchens and bathrooms.

You can see them at night when they look for food. They run very quickly.



They eat all sorts of things - mould, hair, and the glue that holds books together.

Silverfish grow new skin all the time. When the new skin is ready, the old skin falls off.



Creepy-crawly fact: Silverfish can live for months without eating.