
BUGS!
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Bugs are cool and so is this book. Fact.
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For Alice and Will, my very own fact finders! - S.M

For Olive, and the spider in her playhouse. - V.B

b small

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Welcome to bug world

Bugs are everywhere. They are found all around the world in the air, soil and water. Some of them even live in our houses!

Beetles

Spiders

Bees

Snails

Worms

Flies

Butterflies

These minibeasts are all **invertebrates**. This means they do not have a backbone.

Some have a hard shell outside their body instead. Others have soft, wriggly bodies.

Insects are one kind of minibeast and there are MORE OF THEM than any other creature in the world. There are at least ONE MILLION different kinds of insect!

Insects have six legs and a body made of three sections.

head

thorax

abdomen

Insects usually have wings, too.

'Bugs' is the word scientists use to describe a particular sort of insect. They call them '**true bugs**'.

Shield bugs and **aphids**

We are in the insect family!

These **true bugs** have sharp beaks. They stick them into food, like plants, to suck out the juice.

The insect family also includes ants, beetles, bees, flies, butterflies, grasshoppers and wasps.

In disguise!

Many bugs can fly away from danger, but it can be handy for them to become invisible instead, or to make themselves look like something else!

Some minibeasts have colours and patterns to help them **camouflage**. This means they blend into where they live.

Some bugs pretend not to be bugs! They **camouflage** themselves to look like bark, lichen, sticks or stones.

The **garden carpet moth** spreads its wings out as it rests on a wall.

Waved umber moth caterpillars look just like twigs. They keep stock still when a **predator** is nearby.

The **early thorn moth caterpillar** also resembles a twig during the day. At night it wriggles off to find food. When it becomes an adult moth, it looks just like dead leaves!

Emperor moth

Some butterflies and moths have spots on their wings that look like large eyes.

Predators think they are larger than they are and are scared off!

Many creatures snack on bugs ... bats, frogs, lizards, birds, mammals as well as other bugs!

Peacock butterfly

Flower crab spiders can change colour to match their surroundings. This helps them to nab food!

Yikes!

Some bugs look harmful when they are not. Bee beetles and wasp beetles mimic bees and wasps. Predators are put off because they think they might sting.

Buzzing around

There are thousands of different kinds of bees in the world. **Honeybees** live together in groups called **colonies** and they have very busy lives!

Each **honeybee colony** has a queen. She is the largest bee.

There are thousands of worker bees in a **colony**.

Worker bees make wax in their bodies. They use it to build six-sided shapes called cells.

1. The queen lays eggs in the cells.

2. They hatch into grubs (**larvae**).

3. The grubs grow and grow.

4. When they are big enough, the worker bees plug the cells with wax.

5. The **larvae** turn in **pupae**. Inside these cocoons they grow legs, eyes and wings.

6. The grown-up bees chew their way out and join the **colony**.

Bees spread **pollen** from flower to flower as they collect food. This helps the plants to form seeds or fruits. This is called **pollination**.

Honeybees have long tongues covered in hairs. They stretch them through their tube-like mouths to suck out **nectar**.

Worker bees gather **nectar** and **pollen** from flowers. They make honey from the **nectar**. They feed honey and **pollen** to the little grubs.

When a worker bee finds some **nectar**, it goes back to the hive to let other bees know where it is by doing a special dance. This tells the other bees where to find the food.

