

Insects

Most people don't like bugs. They think that bugs are creepy and crawly and are all the same. But if we take a closer look at bugs, we will see that they are actually different in many ways. Based on their special features we can divide bugs into groups. One of those groups is "Insects".

Insects have been on earth for millions of years.

Insects can be recognized by these special features:

- They have six legs.
- Their body is made up of three main body sections (head, thorax, and abdomen).
- They have a hard skeleton on the outside of the body.

Insects have three legs on each side of the body. The legs are attached the middle part of an insect's body. The middle part of an insect's body is called a "Thorax". Many insects, like flies, bees and butterflies have wings that are attached to the thorax.

Behind the thorax is the abdomen. It is usually the largest part of an insect. In front of the thorax is the head. Eyes and a mouth are located in the head. Antennae or feelers are also found on the head. These are used to smell, feel, and taste things.


Insects have a skeleton on the outside of their bodies. It is called an "exoskeleton". Our skeleton is made from bones but an insect's skeleton is made of a material called "chitin". This material is really strong in fact, an insect's skeleton is the hardest part of its body.

Insects lay eggs. Most insects hatch from their eggs as a small sized insect and grow bigger and bigger. They shed their exoskeleton every time they get to big for the old one. This is called molting. Others look nothing like their parents when they are born. They are called larva. Larvae look like worms. The little worms we see in spoiled food sometimes are actually larva from flies. A caterpillar is a larva from a butterfly. Larvas eat and then grow a cocoon. There they stay until they become a full-grown insect. This is called metamorphosis.

Name _____

Date _____


Insects

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. True or False: All bugs the same | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False |
| 2. What are the special features that all insects have | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> six legs, head, thorax, and abdomen, <input type="radio"/> six legs, head, thorax, and abdomen, exoskeleton <input type="radio"/> head, thorax, abdomen, |
| 3. What is the middle part of an insect called? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Thorax <input type="radio"/> Abdomen <input type="radio"/> Head |
| 4. What is behind the thorax? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Head <input type="radio"/> Feelers <input type="radio"/> Abdomen |
| 5. What part of the insects is usually the biggest? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Wings <input type="radio"/> Abdomen <input type="radio"/> Head |
| 6. On what part of the insect do we find the wings? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Abdomen <input type="radio"/> Thorax <input type="radio"/> Head |
| 7. On what part of the insect do we find the feelers? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Thorax <input type="radio"/> Abdomen <input type="radio"/> Head |
| 8. Circle the bug that is not an insect |  |
| 9. Where is the insect's skeleton located? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Outside of their body <input type="radio"/> Inside of their bodies |
| 10. What are insect's skeleton made off? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Exoskeleton <input type="radio"/> Bones <input type="radio"/> Chitin |
| 11. What is a skeleton called that is on the outside of the body? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Bones <input type="radio"/> Chitin <input type="radio"/> Exoskeleton |
| 12. Choose the true answer: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Insects have live babies <input type="radio"/> Insects lay eggs |
| 13. Some insects grow too big for their old skeleton and shed it for a new one. We call this.... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> exoskeleton <input type="radio"/> molting <input type="radio"/> metamorphosis |
| 14. Some insects don't look like their parents when they hatch. They look like worms. We call them.. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Babies <input type="radio"/> Worms <input type="radio"/> Larva |
| 15. Growing from larva, to cocoon to an adult insect is called... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Molting <input type="radio"/> Growing <input type="radio"/> Metamorphosis |
| Total correct answers: | |

Name _____

Date _____

Insects Answers

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. True or False: All bugs the same | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False |
| 2. What are the special features that all insects have | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> six legs, head, thorax, and abdomen, <input checked="" type="radio"/> six legs, head, thorax, and abdomen, exoskeleton <input type="radio"/> head, thorax, abdomen, |
| 3. What is the middle part of an insect called? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Thorax <input type="radio"/> Abdomen <input type="radio"/> Head |
| 4. What is behind the thorax? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Head <input type="radio"/> Feelers <input checked="" type="radio"/> Abdomen |
| 5. What part of the insects is usually the biggest? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Wings <input checked="" type="radio"/> Abdomen <input type="radio"/> Head |
| 6. On what part of the insect do we find the wings? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Abdomen <input checked="" type="radio"/> Thorax <input type="radio"/> Head |
| 7. On what part of the insect do we find the feelers? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Thorax <input type="radio"/> Abdomen <input checked="" type="radio"/> Head |
| 8. Circle the bug that is <i>not</i> an insect |  |
| 9. Where is the insect's skeleton located? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Outside of their body <input type="radio"/> Inside of their bodies |
| 10. What are insect's skeleton made off? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Exoskeleton <input type="radio"/> Bones <input checked="" type="radio"/> Chitin |
| 11. What is a skeleton called that is on the outside of the body? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Bones <input type="radio"/> Chitin <input checked="" type="radio"/> Exoskeleton |
| 12. Choose the true answer: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Insects have live babies <input checked="" type="radio"/> Insects lay eggs |
| 13. Some insects grow too big for their old skeleton and shed it for a new one. We call this.... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> exoskeleton <input checked="" type="radio"/> molting <input type="radio"/> metamorphosis |
| 14. Some insects don't look like their parents when they hatch. They look like worms. We call them.. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Babies <input type="radio"/> Worms <input checked="" type="radio"/> Larva |
| 15. Growing from larva, to cocoon to an adult insect is called... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Molting <input type="radio"/> Growing <input checked="" type="radio"/> Metamorphosis |

Name _____

Date _____

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Total correct answers: | |
|------------------------|--|