

INSECT OBSERVATION

Arthropods, World Champs of Survival



Arthropods – such as arachnids, millipedes, crustaceans, and insects – are the largest and most successful group of animals on Earth. Humans are vertebrates, which means we have a spine. However, **arthropods are invertebrates**, so they do not have a spine or other bones inside their bodies the way other mammals do. Instead, they have an exoskeleton – a skeleton on the outside of the body. Strong exoskeletons allowed arthropods to be the first animals to live on Earth millions of years ago! Arthropods also have segmented bodies, which means their bodies are organized into a few units.

What is an insect?

Insects are one type of arthropod. Like all arthropods, their bodies are divided into segments. Insects have three segments: head, thorax, and abdomen. On their head, insects have **two antennae and two eyes**. Their thorax helps them move, since their **six legs** and (if they have them) wings are attached there. The abdomen is the last part and, in some insects, contains spiracles, which help the insect breathe. **Some insects we commonly see in Wisconsin are mosquitos, flies, butterflies, gnats, crickets, and ants.**



Make Insect Observations in Your Own Neighborhood!

From your MPM kit, grab the pencil and magnifying glass. Turn the page to the Insect Observation sheet and with the help of your adult, head outside to look for an insect in their natural environment. Under rocks or plants are good places to start.

Record your observations and a drawing of your insect!



INSECT OBSERVATION SHEET

DRAW YOUR
INSECT HERE!

INSECT #1

What type of insect is it (if I know)?

Where did I find it?

What color is it?

What is it doing?

Does it have six legs? _____

If not, it's not an insect!

DRAW YOUR
INSECT HERE!

INSECT #2

What type of insect is it (if I know)?

Where did I find it?

What color is it?

What is it doing?

Does it have six legs? _____

If not, it's not an insect!