

Insects vs. Arachnids

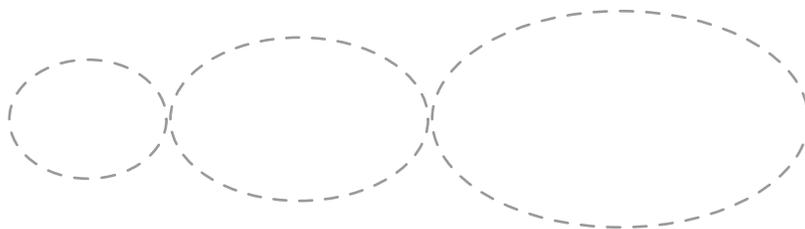
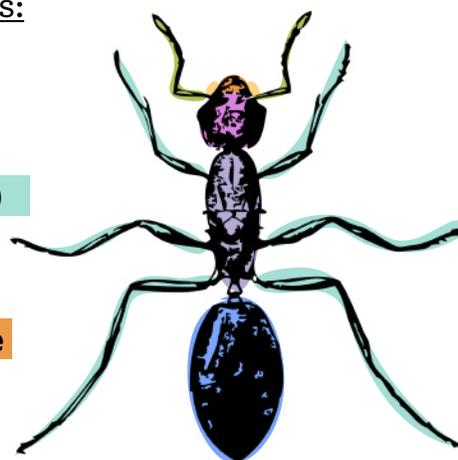
Insects and arachnids are both arthropods - invertebrate animals with exoskeletons (that they shed, or molt, to grow), segmented bodies, and paired jointed limbs.

In this activity, compare and draw insects and arachnids after reading some facts. What makes them similar and different?

Part I. Read the insect facts and draw a picture in the space provided.

Adult insects have the following body parts:

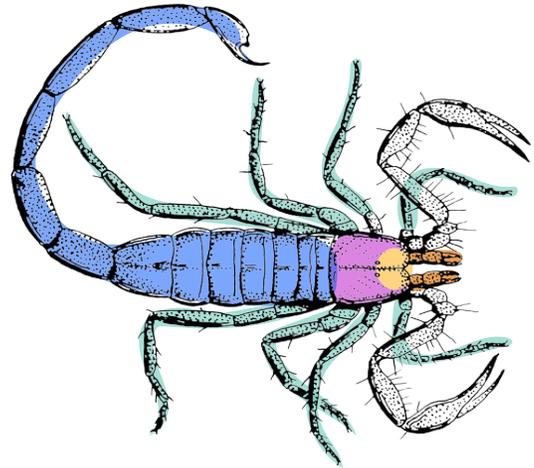
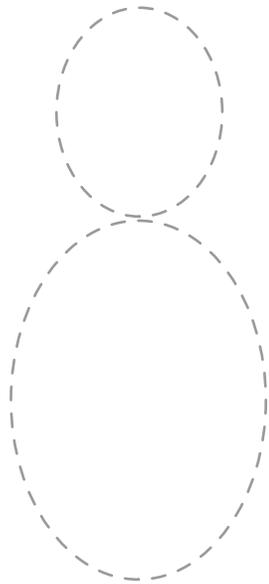
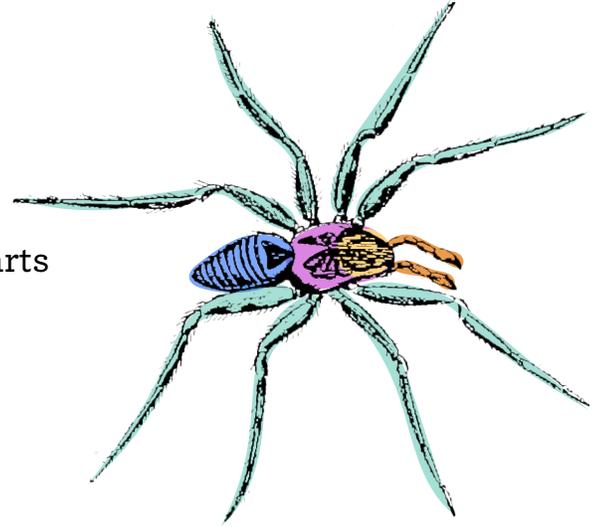
- A head in the front
- A thorax in the middle
- An abdomen in the back
- Six legs (three on each side of the thorax)
- Two antennae on the head
- Two compound eyes
- Most have a mouthpart called a **mandible** (a **proboscis** in butterflies and moths)
- Many also have wings



Part II. Read the arachnid facts and draw a picture in the space provided.

Adult arachnids have the following body parts:

- A cephalothorax in the front
- An abdomen in the back
- Most have eight legs
(four on each side of the cephalothorax)
- No antennae, but many have other sensory body parts
- One to six pairs of simple eyes
(some have no eyes)
- A mouthpart called a **chelicera** (kuh-lis-uh-rah)
- No wings



Part III. Look! Think! Discuss!

Take a look at the drawings and answer these questions:

What body parts does one arthropod have that the other does not?

What makes the insect and arachnid legs the same or different?

What makes the insect and arachnid eyes the same or different?
