

insect

a type of creature that  
has no backbone, six  
legs, three body parts,  
an exoskeleton,  
compound eyes and one  
pair of antennae

abdomen

the last (or back)  
part of an insect's  
body that contains  
the digestive system  
and other organs

antennae

one or more pairs  
of feelers that an  
insect uses for  
sensing the  
environment

bee

a type of insect that is commonly known for its role in pollinating plants and also for making honey and beeswax; many of the nearly 20,000 known species have two sets of wings and stingers

beetle

a group of insects whose front pair of wings is hardened and thickened into a shell-like protection for the back pair of wings and abdomen

butterfly

a type of insect  
usually having large  
brightly colored wings  
and characterized by  
a fluttering type of  
wing movement

chrysalis

the pupa stage of life in a butterfly or moth that happens between the larva (caterpillar) stage and the adult stage; lives inside a protective covering called a cocoon

cocoon

a casing of silk spun  
by an insect's larva to  
serve as a protective  
covering for the next  
stage of life called  
the pupa



# compound eye

the type of eyes found in most insects that are made of lots of individual "eye units"; they work by taking in lots of images at once and putting them together in the insect's brain; allows them to see very wide images

egg

an oval or round  
object that is the  
beginning stage  
of life for insects

entomologist

a person who  
studies insects

exoskeleton

the outside of an  
insect that helps  
to support and  
protect its body

head

the front part of an insect's body that contains the main sensory organs including the antennae, mouth parts and compound eyes

invertebrate

a creature without  
a backbone;  
insects are  
invertebrates

larva

the very young  
stage in an insect's  
life as it begins its  
metamorphosis into  
an adult

legs

the jointed parts of an insect that allow it to walk and climb; all insects have three sets (six) of legs coming from their thorax



metamorphosis

the major changes  
in form and physical  
appearance that an  
insect goes through  
from egg to adult

pupa

the stage of life of an insect after the larva stage where adult features start growing and larva features are broken down; most insects are not able to move much or at all during this stage

proboscis

the tube attached  
to the head of  
some insects that  
is used for  
feeding or sucking

stinger

the sharp organ  
found in many insects  
that is capable of  
injecting venom by  
sticking it into  
another creature

swarm

a large group of  
insects that are  
grouped together  
in one area or  
moving together

thorax

the middle section  
of an insect's  
body; this section  
has the legs and  
wings attached

wing

objects that grow  
out from the  
thorax of an  
insect and enable  
it to fly