

Vocabulary – INSECTS

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 eyes	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

wings

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