

Build-a-Bug

by the Entomological Society of Alberta
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Make your own insect by putting together your favourite parts!

Instructions:

1. Choose the parts you want to use for your bug and colour them.
2. Time to cut! Use scissors to cut around the border of your abdomen card. Then, cut the bold black outline of all your chosen head/thorax, front wings, and back wings.
3. Glue the head/thorax onto the abdomen card. It should go on top of the black area between the legs.
4. The wings go on the thorax. Glue the back wings first since these are underneath. There are small grey circles where the wings attach to the thorax.
5. Come up with a name, and give some information about your insect. What does it eat? Where does it live? Are there any fun facts about it?

This black and white example shows where the parts would normally go on a beetle.

Name: Hypno-beetle




Diet : fallen fruit

Habitat : Forests and orchards

Scares farmers by hypnotizing them with its back wings

There are fun facts and some parts are named for the insects they're based on, but feel free to get creative! There is no right or wrong!

Back Wings



Insects with protective front wings have big powerful back wings.

strong wings

dragonfly wings

big wings

Earwigs and rove beetles fold their wings up like a fan to prevent damage when burrowing

blank wings

round wings

Some camouflaged bugs have bright colors or eyespots on their back wings to scare predators that stay hidden when they're not using them.

fan-like wings

beetle wings

patterned wings

tailed wings

Wasps have sleek, thin wings that help them make tight turns

wasp wings

Moths and butterflies have wings covered in tiny "scales" that they can shed to escape from spider webs

feather wings

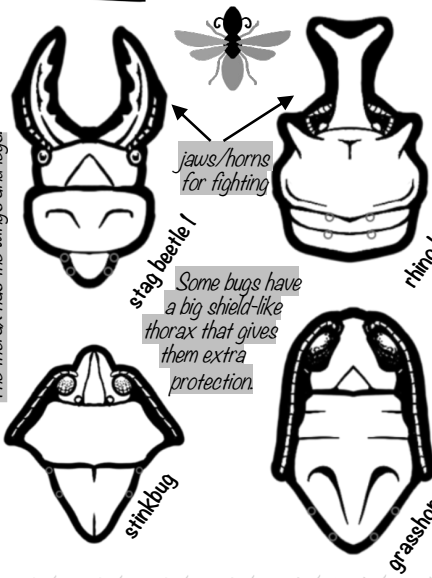
striped wings

plume-moth wings

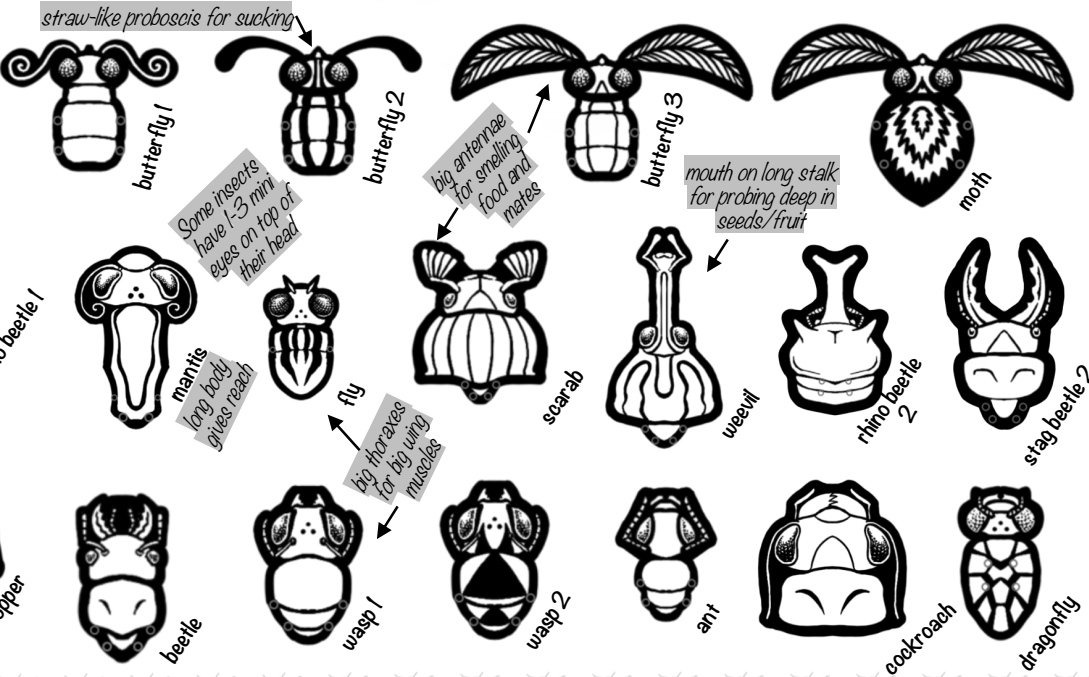
pattern-tailed wings

Heads & Thoraxes

The head has the eyes, mouth, and antennae. The thorax has the wings and legs.



stag beetle 1
Some bugs have a big shield-like thorax that gives them extra protection.



straw-like proboscis for sucking

Some insects have 1-3 mini eyes on top of their head

big antennae for smelling food and mates

mouth on long stalk for probing deep in seeds/fruit

mantis long body gives reach

big thoraxes for big wing muscles

Front Wings

Big moth and butterfly wings are good for flying fast and far but are delicate.



patterned wings



tough patterned wings



tough wings



striped wings

Some front wings are half-shells (stink bugs) or tough and leathery (mantises, crickets) to protect the delicate back wings that power flight.



half-shell 1



big wings



half-shell 2



sharp wings

dark patch on some wings is a tiny weight for counterbalance



wasp wings

Tiny insects (thrips, fairyflies) have wings that might look like many feathers or many small thin wings. They're so small that air is thick to them so flying is like swimming!

In beetles, the front wings are a hard protective shell that makes them the toughest bugs around, but doesn't help them fly!



beetle shell 1



fly wings

flies only have 1 pair of wings!



plume-moth wings



beetle shell 2



round wings



feather wings



beetle shell 3

Dragonfly wings are thin with lot's of veins, making them strong and agile fliers.



dragonfly wings

Abdomen Cards



All the legs and wings of an insect are on the thorax, the abdomen is for all of the guts!

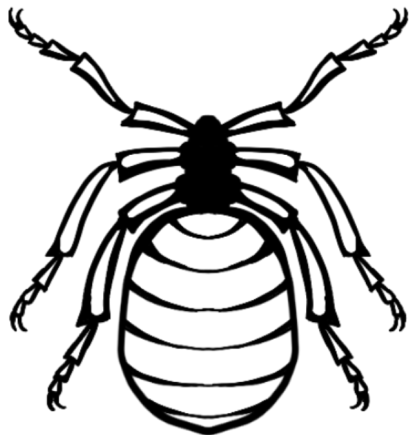


big body - energy reserves, bad flier

tough body - durable, bad flier

small body - sneaky, fast, small appetite

Name:



Diet:

Habitat:

light body - maneuverable, great flier

Name:



Diet:

Habitat:

hairy body - great flier, can fly in the cold and at night

Name:



Diet:

Habitat:

long body - legs can hold and grab, fast but delicate

Name:



Diet:

Habitat:

jumping body - very fast on land, bad flier

Name:



Diet:

Habitat:

stinging body - venomous sting for defense or attack

Name:

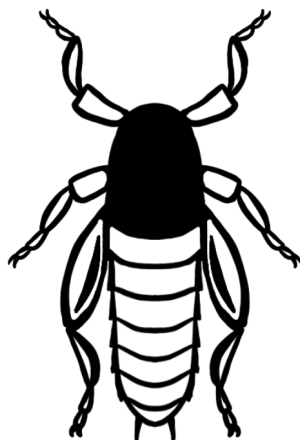


Diet:

Habitat:

predatory body - front legs can catch big prey

Name:



Diet:

Habitat:

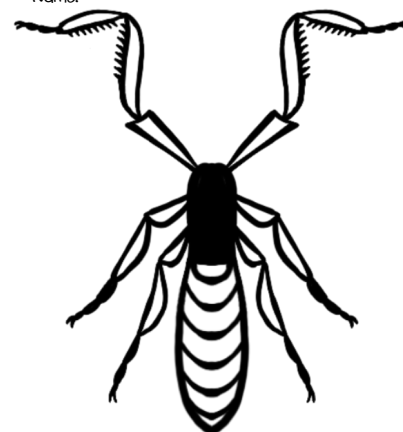
Name:



Diet:

Habitat:

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Diet:

Habitat: