THE CREEPY CRAWLY ASSIGNMENT

**Insects, Bugs and other Creepy Crawlies**

Insects are all around us, they make up more than half of all living things on the planet. There are more than a million known insect species and there are probably many more waiting to be discovered. True insects are those that are classified in the Class ‘Insecta’. They are a major group of arthropods (a type of invertebrate, animals that lack a backbone), and the most diverse group of animals on the Earth. Insects rank among the most successful animals on our planet. The study of insects is called ‘entomology’.

There are approximately 5,000 dragonfly species, 2,000 praying mantis, 20,000 grasshoppers, 170,000 butterflies and moths, 120,000 fly, 82,000 true bugs, 360,000 beetles and 110,000 bee, wasp and ant species described to date. Estimates of the total number of current species, including those not yet known to science, range from two million to fifty million.

All insects have a hard exoskeleton (external skeleton) and a 3 part segmented body inclusive of a head, thorax and abdomen. They have 3 pairs of jointed legs, compound eyes and 2 antennae. The legs (and wings, if applicable) are attached to the thorax. Insects breathe through holes called spiracles.

Insects are also characterized by the following characteristics:

* They have six legs (the term ‘Hexapoda’ means: ‘hexa’-six and ‘poda’-feet).
* Most insects have wings and form the largest part of the subphylum ‘hexapoda’.
* Their life cycles generally consists of these stages: egg, larva and adult, known as ‘metamorphosis’.
* More advanced insects go through a further stage called the ‘pupa’ stage whereby a re-organisation of body parts takes place between the laval and adult stages.

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExHETUWLKO8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weQ0yrl4ypE>

What is an arthropod?

These are the things we usually refer to as bugs!

Class Arachnida (spiders, ticks, mites)

* + Class Chilopoda (centipedes)
	+ Class Diplopoda (millipedes)
	+ Class Insecta (all of the insects including ants, bees, beetles and butterflies)

Worms???

What is the difference between bees and wasps?

What does a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do in the winter?

Why are there so many ants? Why is it important to save the bees?? Why are there centipedes in my basement?

What are maggots?

What is interesting about your creepy crawly?

Life cycle?

How does it get its food? Live?

What important role does it play in the world?

Special adaptations?

Classification system: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, genus, Species