

LITTLE EXPLORERS

PHARAOH ANT



CENTIPEDE



BUGS

LIFT THE FLAPS TO EXPLORE THE WORLD OF BUGS INSIDE AND OUT!

MOSQUITO



CATERPILLAR



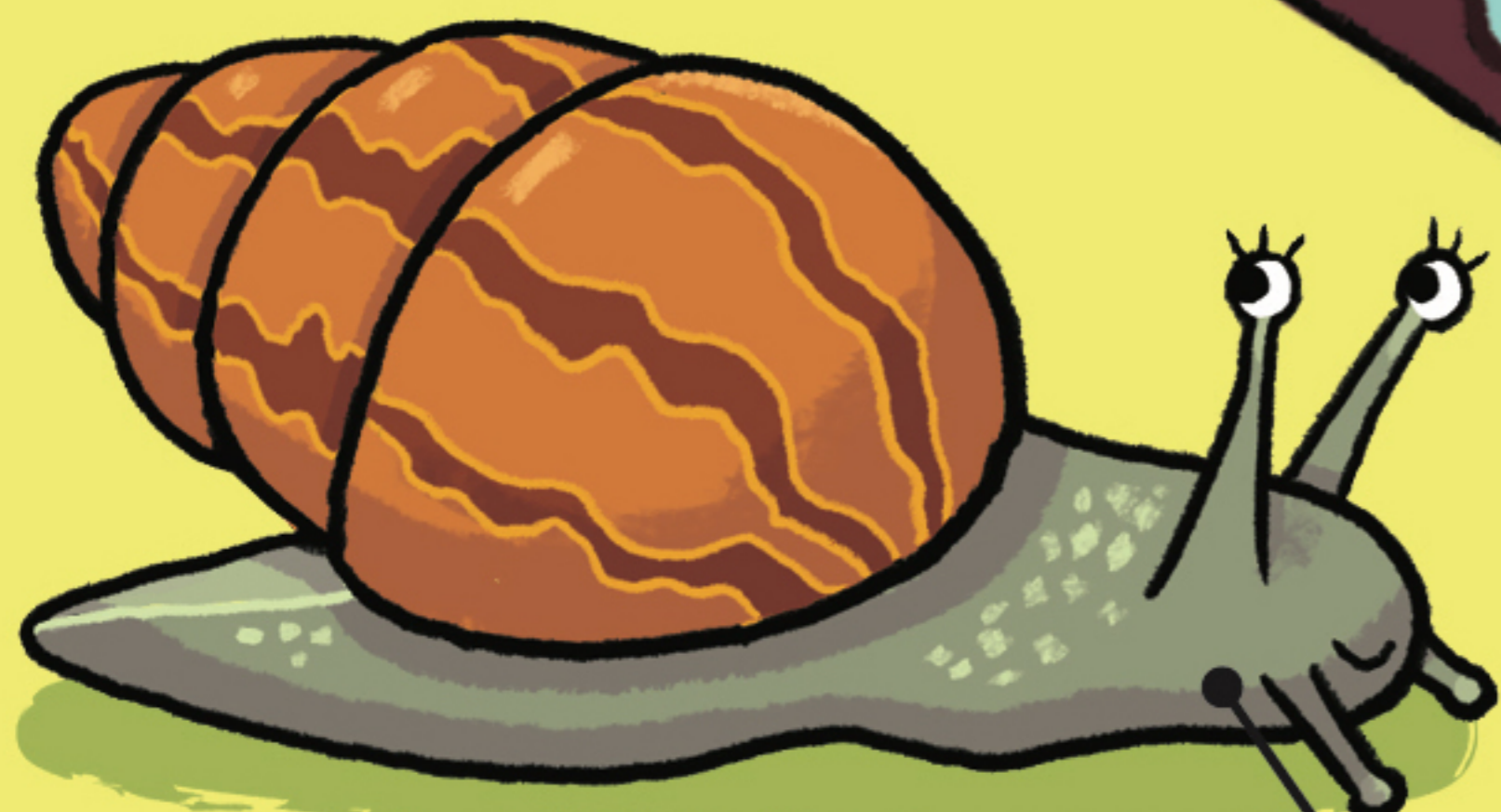
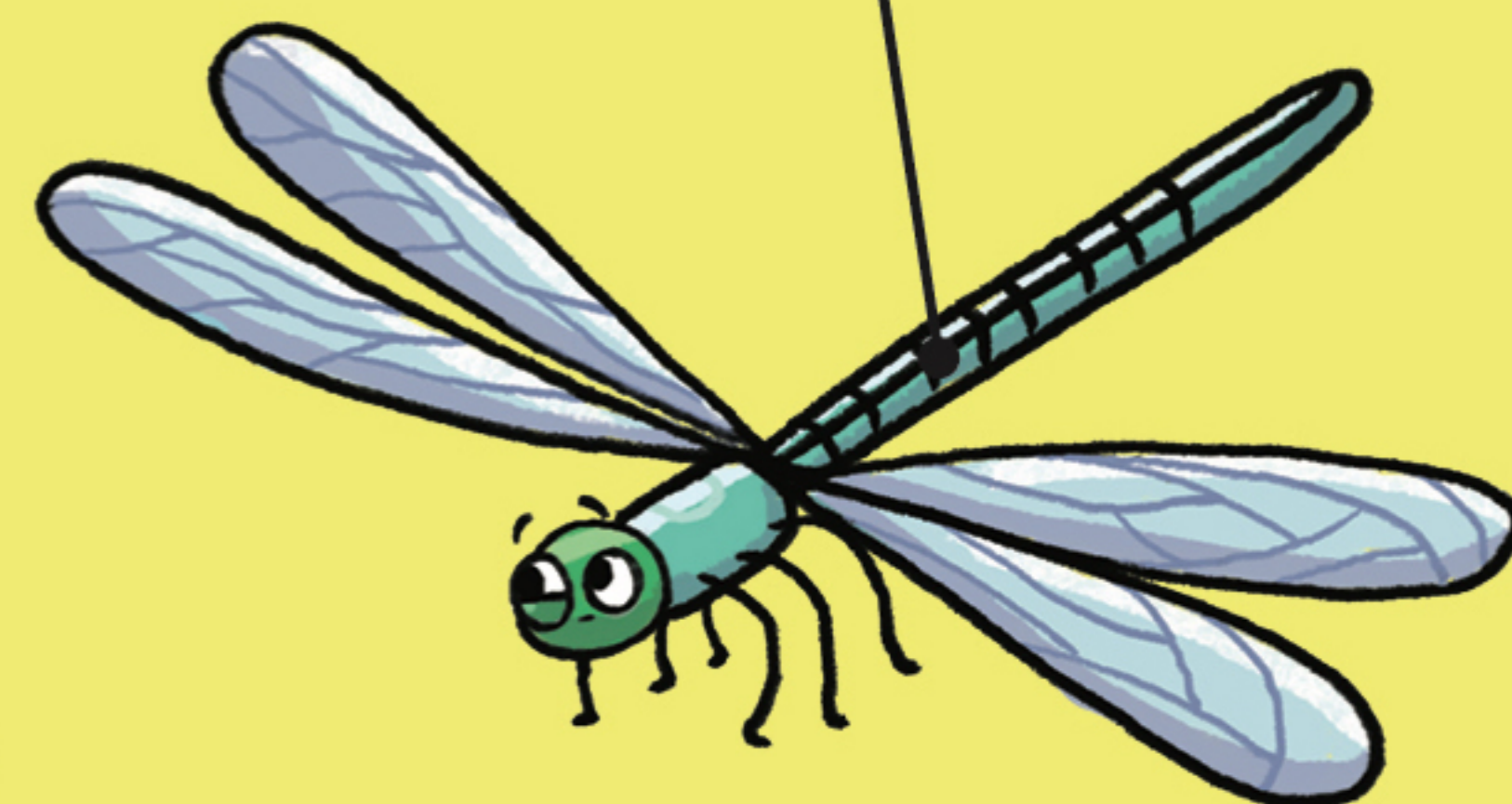
WASP



SUNSET MOTH



DRAGONFLY



SNAIL

MILLIPEDE



BEETLE



GOLIATH SPIDER

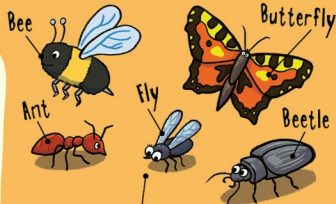
MORE THAN 30 FLAPS!



Spider

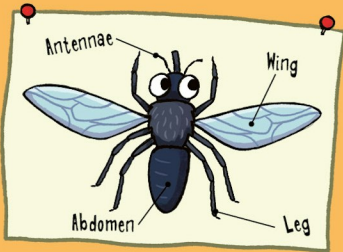
BRILLIANT BUGS

Bugs have been crawling, creeping, wriggling and buzzing on Earth for over 400 million years! They come in an amazing variety of colours, shapes and sizes, and no matter where you are, you won't have to look too far before you find one.



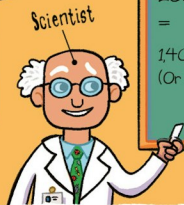
What is an insect?

Insects are the most common type of bug. They have three body parts, three pairs of legs and two antennae (or feelers). Most have wings. Ants, flies, moths and wasps are all insects.

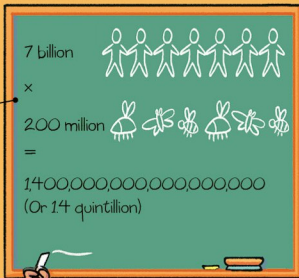


Counting Creepy-Crawlies

There are so many bugs in the world it is impossible to count them all. Some scientists believe there could be 200 million insects for every single person on the planet!

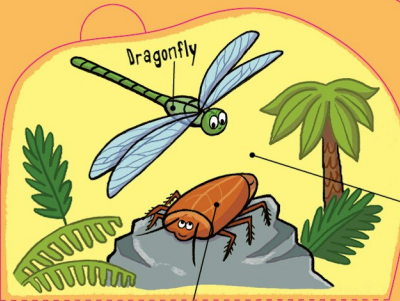
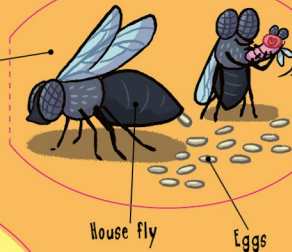


Scientist



Big families

There are more insects and bugs on Earth than any other kind of animal. Female bugs can lay hundreds or even thousands of eggs at a time.



Ancient insects

Fossils show that millions of years ago huge dragonflies buzzed overhead and massive cockroaches crawled on the land.

New discoveries

Scientists know about 900,000 different kinds of insect, but every year they discover thousands more. They think there may be at least 4 million left to find!

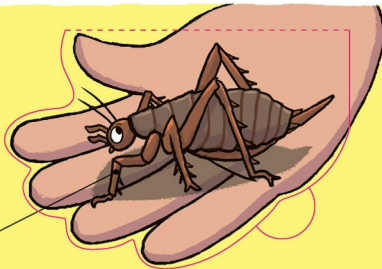


BIGGEST BUGS

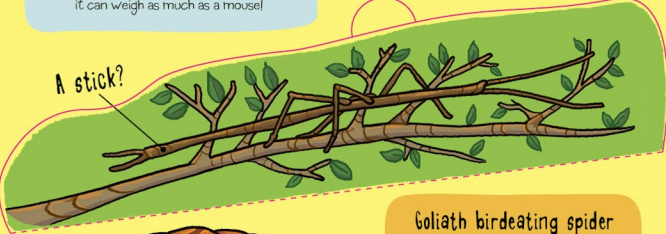
Big bugs are pretty frightening with their fearsome fangs, wide wings, long legs and super stings. Luckily, most of them are not harmful to humans.

Giant weta

This huge cricket is only found on one small island off New Zealand. When fully grown it can weigh as much as a mouse!



A stick?



Goliath birdeating spider

Although it is big enough to eat a bird, this huge, hairy hunter from South America prefers insects.



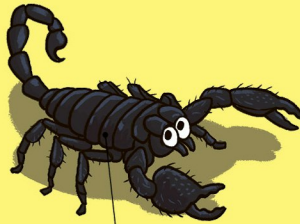
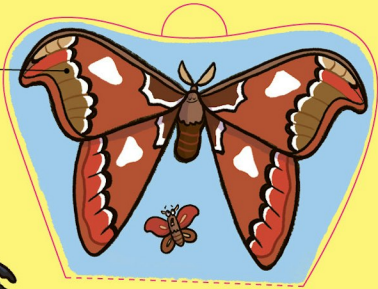
African giant snail

The world's biggest kind of snail hides in its shell during the day and comes out at night to feast on leafy food.



Atlas moth

With wings that measure 27 centimetres across, this is the biggest moth in the world.

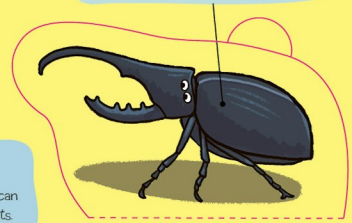


Emperor scorpion

The hairs on this scary scorpion's pincers help it find prey by sensing tiny movements in the air and on the ground.

Hercules beetle

The mighty male Hercules beetle has horns that look like a pair of pincers.



Amazonian giant Centipede

Its size means this big bug feeds on anything it can overpower, including lizards, frogs, mice and bats.



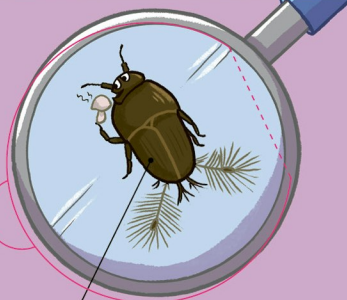
SMALLEST BUGS

Being small has its advantages. These tiny critters can fly or feed without being seen, and can fit in the smallest hiding holes.



Fairyfly

Just like a fairy, the fairyfly is hard to spot, but this small, hairy-winged wasp can survive almost anywhere, from rainforests to deserts.



Featherwing beetle

Half a millimetre long, this tiny beetle can be found in old logs and rotting leaves, feeding on mould and fungi.

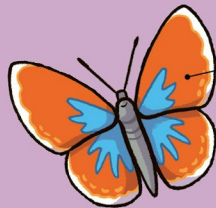
Pharaoh ant

These tiny pests like to make their nests in the nooks and crannies of buildings, such as hospitals, offices, factories and homes.



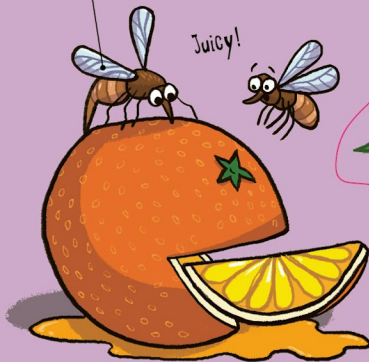
Western pygmy blue butterfly

It's easy to miss the world's smallest butterfly. Its spread wings measure just 12 millimetres from tip to tip.



Fruit fly

Often found buzzing near fruit bowls and bins, this little, red-eyed fly loves to feed on ripe and rotting fruit and vegetables.



Flea

Fleas like to drink the blood of cats, dogs and humans. They use their long back legs to leap onto their victim.

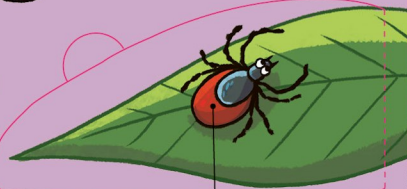


Ladybird



Blacklegged tick

Tiny blood-suckers that wait on the tips of leaves, ticks crawl onto the skin or fur of dogs, deer or humans to feed.



FLYING BUGS

In the spring and summer, the air is filled with the sound of buzzing bugs, by day and by night. They fly to find food or a mate and to escape from enemies.



Housefly

A housefly has super-fast reactions. It can swerve and change direction in the blink of an eye.



Mosquito

If you hear the whining hum of tiny buzzing wings, watch out! Female mosquitoes suck blood and leave an itchy bite.

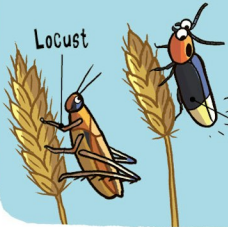


Firefly

At night the bodies of these winged beetles glow with a soft light. The male flashes his light to impress a female. If she likes him, she flashes back.

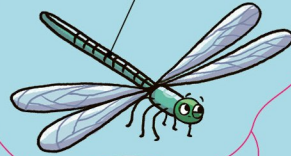
Female firefly

Locust



Dragonfly

These insect acrobats can move each of their four wings separately. This allows them to zoom forwards and backwards, up and down, or hover.



Bumblebee

A bumblebee needs to flap its wings 200 times a second to lift its body into the air.



Bee or wasp?



Butterfly

A butterfly's big wings let it move quickly and easily, making it hard for animals to guess which way it will go.



Leaf insect

This insect's leafy-looking wings are the perfect disguise. It rocks back and forth like a leaf blowing in the wind.