

Beetles, Bugs, & Butterflies Vocabulary

Insect: A small animal with a hard covering over its body. Most kinds of insects have a body that is divided into three parts, three pairs of legs, and one or two pairs of wings.

Arthropod: A large group of animals with hard shells on the outside of their bodies, legs with joints, and no bones inside their bodies. Insects, spiders, centipedes, and crabs are some examples of arthropods.

Head: The first or top part of an insect's body where the eyes, antennae, and mouth parts are located

Thorax: The second or middle part of an insect's body where the legs and/or wings are located

Abdomen: The third or rear part in the body of an insect

Antenna (pl. Antennae): One of a pair of long, thin body parts on the heads of insects, crabs, and other animals. Antennae are used to feel and smell.

Metamorphosis: The change in form of some living things as they grow. The change from caterpillar to butterfly, or from tadpole to frog are examples of metamorphoses.

Egg: The egg is the first stage in the life cycle of most insects. Eggs can be laid singly or in a cluster.

Larva: An insect after it hatches from an egg and before it changes into its adult form. Larvae do not have wings and look like worms. Most kinds of insects spend part of their lives as larvae. Caterpillars are a type of larva.

Pupa: An insect in a middle stage of its development, after it is a larva. Pupas do not eat or move. They are changing into their adult form.

Chrysalis: The pupal stage of a butterfly is called a chrysalis. Chrysalides are usually ornamented with colors, projections, metallic spots, etc.

Cocoon: A soft covering made by young insects, including some types of moths, to protect themselves while they change from a pupa into an adult

Adaptation: The skills or the appearance of an animal that allows it to survive more easily in its natural home

Camouflage: A way of hiding something by covering or coloring it so that it looks like its surroundings. The coats of many animals serve as a natural form of camouflage.



Mimicry: Imitating or copying the speech, behavior, or expressions of others; the imitation by an organism of its environment or of other organisms as a means of survival

Symmetrical: Being the same on one side of a dividing line as on the other side