

Insects and Spiders

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Spiders have eight legs, one pair more than insects. They have two body parts – a head and an abdomen – and most have eight simple eyes. They do not have bones, but have a hard casing on the outside called an exoskeleton. This protects their soft insides like a suit of armor and gives them their shape. They have to replace this casing with the new one in order to grow.

Every insect has six legs and three parts to its body namely the head, the thorax and the abdomen. Many insects have wings for flying and long feelers or antennae.

African Goliath beetle weighs about four ounces and can be six inches long. It lives in rotten wood in tropical forests.

Fairy flies are actually tiny wasps, some of which have a wing span no bigger than a period! The female can lay up to 20 eggs inside the egg of another insect.

Fleas can jump 150 times their own body length. If you jump 150 times your body length, you can reach approximately third of a mile in the air.

Can you carry 850 people of your size? The rhinoceros beetle is able to move 850 times its own weight.

As well a sting, some scorpions also have a light-sensitive cells in their tails. These cells let them know whether it's day or night, even when their heads are underground.

When a honeybee finds a good source of nectar, it flies back to the hive and does a special dance. The speed and direction of its movements tell the others where they can find the nectar.

An insect's eye is made up of thousands of lenses. This means it sees a very different world compared to us. It's also much better at sensing any movement nearby.

Dragonflies, some wasps and moths can fly as fast as 30 mph. Butterflies flap their wings 5-12 times per second, the hawk moth 70 times, while some tiny flies can beat their wings 1000 times each second.

Centipedes and Millipedes have long, bendy bodies made up of segments. A millipede has two pairs of legs on each segment, but centipedes have only one pair on each segment. Millipedes are plant eaters. Centipedes are meat eaters, hunting at night for tiny creatures which they attack with powerful poisonous jaws.

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