

Name _____

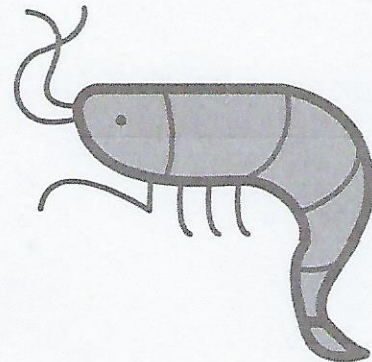
Arthropods

Arthropod is the scientific name for the group of living creatures that includes insects, spiders (arachnids), and crustaceans (crabs, lobsters, and shrimp). Creatures that have both a hard exoskeleton with joints and pairs of jointed legs are considered arthropods.

There are more insects on earth than any other kind of organism on the planet. Most insects are small, but overall they vary greatly in size from microscopic to several species that grow to over a foot long. All insects share certain characteristics. Insects have an exoskeleton made of a substance called chitin. They have three basic body parts: a head, a thorax, and an abdomen. All insects have two antennae and six legs. Winged insects have wings attached to their thorax. Insects begin life as eggs. Juvenile insects are called nymphs. As insects grow, they shed their old exoskeleton and grow new ones. This process is called molting.

There are over 100,000 species of arachnids, which is a Greek word meaning spider. Although the words arachnid and spider are frequently used interchangeably, there are non-spider members of the arachnid family like scorpions and ticks. Arachnids have the following characteristics: eight legs, simple eyes (as opposed to the compound eyes that insects have), an exoskeleton, no wings or antennae. Like insects, arachnids also lay eggs.

Crustaceans typically live in water, though some do live on land. There are over thirty thousand species of crustaceans in the world. Like insects, crustaceans have compound eyes and antennae. Like both arachnids and insects, crustaceans have no internal skeleton. Crustaceans have swimming legs on their abdominal segment (called swimmerets). They also have a pair of green glands near the base of antennae that excrete waste.



Name _____ **Insects, Spiders, and Bugs**

QUESTIONS: Arthropods

Circle the correct answer.

1. The scientific name for the group of living creatures that includes insects, spiders, and crustaceans is:
 - A. arachnids
 - B. arthropods
 - C. exoskeleton
 - D. harvestmen

2. There are more _____ on earth than any other kind of organism.
 - A. insects
 - B. spiders
 - C. crustaceans
 - D. chitin

3. Juvenile insects are called:
 - A. chitin
 - B. molt
 - C. arachnids
 - D. nymphs

4. The Greek work meaning spider is:
 - A. crustacean
 - B. arthropod
 - C. arachnid
 - D. exoskeleton

5. Which of the following typically live in water?
 - A. insects
 - B. spiders
 - C. crustaceans
 - D. chitin