

# Lesson 1: What is an Insect?

## Insect Facts

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- Animal with body made of rings
- 3 parts: head, thorax, and abdomen
- Six legs
- Two or four wings

## Reading and Questions

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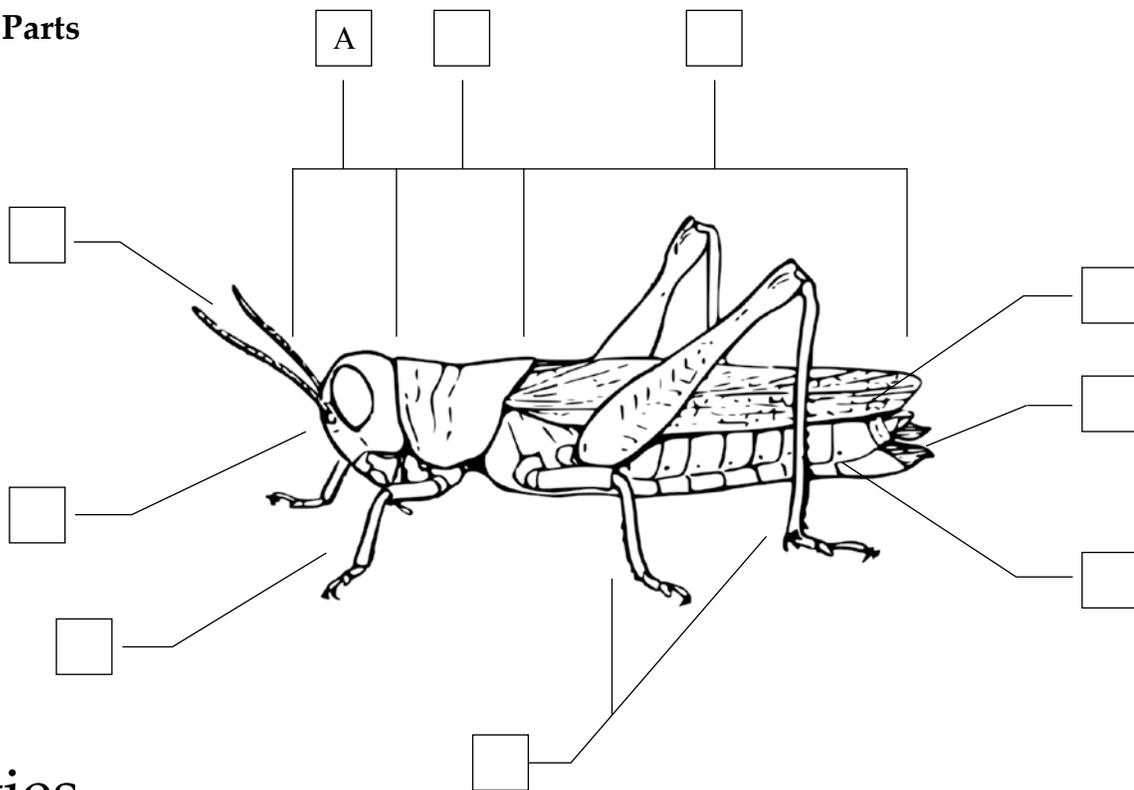
- Reader pp. 5-8*
1. How much of the animal kingdom is made up of insects? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Name five different kinds of insects from the reading. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. This reading was written by a person from Britain, and the British have a different name for crane flies than Americans. What is this name? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. How many parts make up an insect's body? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. What are the body parts called? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  6. From the tail of the insect to its head, it is divided into what? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. How does an insect breathe air? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  8. Why is a crane fly, or 'daddy-long-legs,' different from other insects like bees, butterflies, and beetles? \_\_\_\_\_
  9. What do you need to remember about insects? \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Observation and Sketching

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- Let's take a common insect, the grasshopper, and study the parts of its body. Look at the picture of the grasshopper below and label its parts as you read. The first part, the head (A), is labeled for you.
- On the head are the antennae (D) and eyes (E). Also on the head is the mouth.
- In the middle of the body is the thorax (B). On the thorax are the forelegs (F), hind legs (G), forewings (H), and hind wings. The legs have joints that work like your elbow and knee. The forewings usually cover the hind wings when at rest.
- The last part, the abdomen (C), has spiracles (I) and an ovipositor (J). Spiracles are holes on the sides of the body used for breathing. Air enters an insect's body not through a nose, but spiracles. The ovipositor is used to lay eggs, and for some insects (e.g. wasp, honeybee) it is also a stinger.

## Insect Body Parts



## Activities

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1. Recite from memory the **Insect Facts** at the beginning of this lesson.
2. In your yard or a park, look for insects and try to identify their parts.