

# Common Schoolyard Invertebrates

Invertebrates are the most numerous group of animals worldwide and are very important for food webs as predators, prey and decomposers. Insects are invertebrates that have 3 body parts- a head, thorax, and abdomen- along with 6 legs and a pair of antennae. Most insects also have paired wings. In addition to insects, other invertebrates like spiders and snails can also be found in schoolyards.

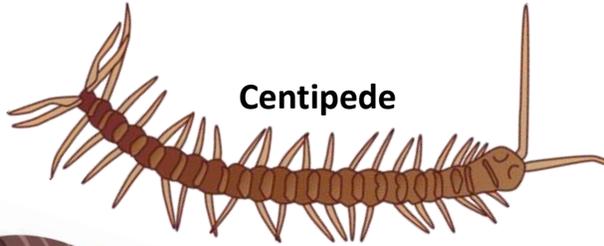
## Not an Insect



Spider



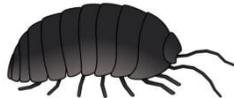
Worm



Centipede



Millipede



Sowbug

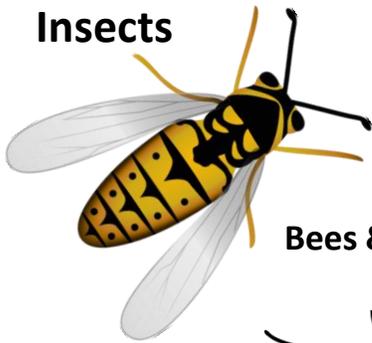


Snail

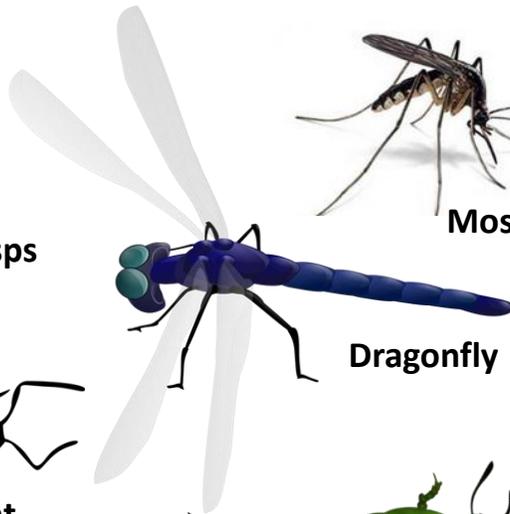


Slug

## Insects



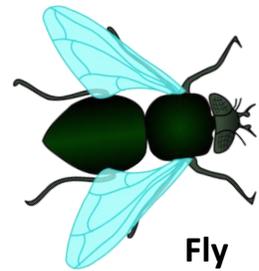
Bees & Wasps



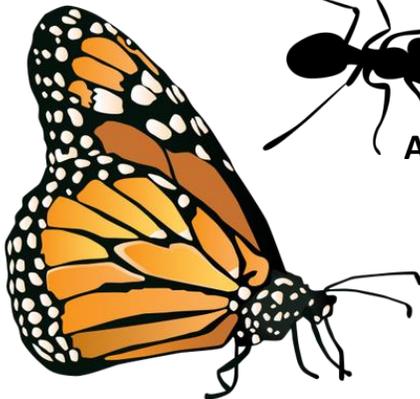
Dragonfly



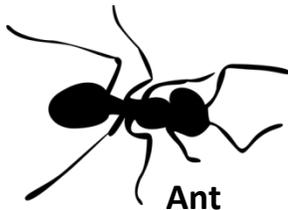
Mosquito



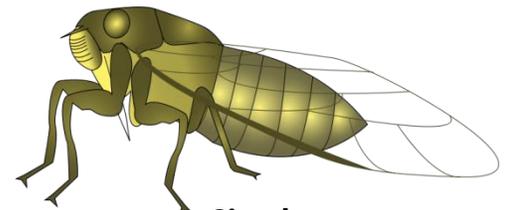
Fly



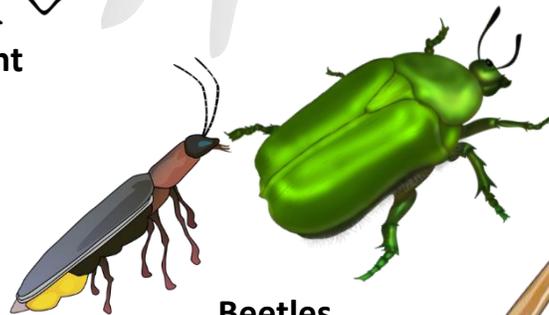
Butterflies & Moths



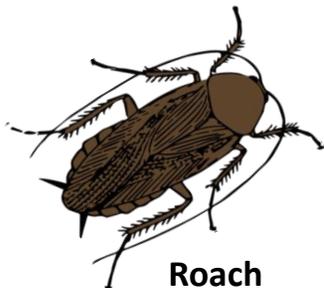
Ant



Cicada



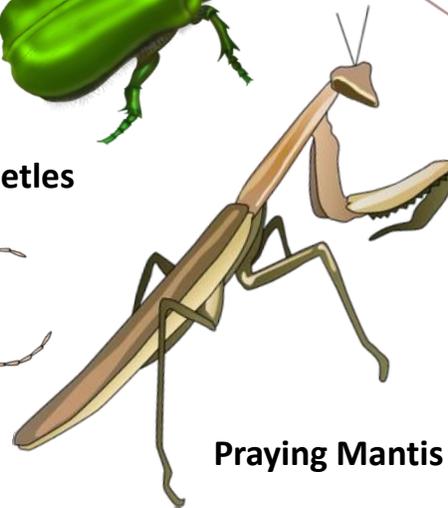
Beetles



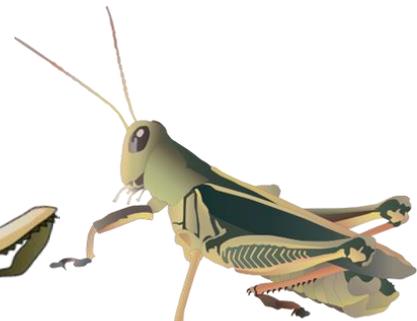
Roach



Earwig



Praying Mantis



Crickets & Grasshoppers

## Common Schoolyard Invertebrates (Cont'd)

Below are brief descriptions for the different types of invertebrates found in schoolyards.

Invertebrate	Insect?	Description
Ant	Y	Has a narrow waist between the thorax and abdomen; adults typically lack wings and have antennae shaped like an elbow
Bees & Wasps	Y	Has two pairs of thin, transparent wings often with smaller back (hind) wings; bees typically hairy and wasps often are not
Beetle	Y	Has modified fore (front) wings that are hardened and thin backwings
Butterflies & Moths	Y	Has two pairs of scaly wings
Centipede	N	Has many segments with 1 pair of legs per segment; eats other invertebrates.
Cicada	Y	Has two pairs of wings held along body and a jointed mouth for sucking plant juices
Crickets & Grasshoppers	Y	Have large rear legs for jumping and for making noise
Dragonfly	Y	Has two pairs of long, almost equal wings with a long and slender body
Earwig	Y	Are medium-sized insects with pincer-like tail and segmented antennae
Fly	Y	Has one pair of wings and second pair of smaller wings (halteres); the eyes are large and antennae are small.
Millipede	N	Has many segments with 2 pairs of legs per segment; eats dead plant and animal materials
Mosquito	Y	Has single pair of fully developed wings and a smaller, reduced pair of wings; has sucking mouthparts
Praying Mantis	Y	Has large, rasping front legs; eats other organisms
Roach	Y	Has a broad, flattened body with a small head
Slug	N	Are shell-less mollusks which often are slimy
Snail	N	Are mollusks that have protective shell; often eats plants
Sowbug	N	Has a shell-like covering with segments; some can roll into a ball; related to crabs
Spider	N	2 body segments- head & abdomen; eats other invertebrates
Worm	N	Have long, cylindrical bodies with lots of segments