

Read more about [Spineless Wonders](#) and how they help to educate about invertebrates.

Some facts about invertebrates

- It is more accurate to call small and six-legged wriggly things **Insects** rather than bugs, **True Bugs Suck** and most insects chew like us. An aphid **is** a true bug as it sucks.
- There is a big difference between **Preying Mantids** who hunt other insects, whereas **Stick Insects** are vegetarian.
- **Markings** - Bands go across the body and stripes go from head to back/toe. Tigers and Zebras are banded.
- **Centipedes** (predator) have two legs for every body segment; **Millipedes** (vegetarian) have four legs for every body segment.
- **Spiders, scorpions** and **centipedes** have a sucking stomach; they can only drink their food. There are two parts to venom in these animals. The first small amount is for knocking out the nervous system of the prey which saves the predators energy because the prey does not struggle for long. The larger portion of venom is for turning the prey's organs and tissues into a soup for digestion.
- There are over **400 native cockroaches' species** in the native Australian habitats doing their ecological jobs never wanting to come in your home. The two species of cockroach that do come into your home were introduced from other countries. The American (large flying) and the German (small flying)
- **Spiders** have two body parts; head and abdomen. They have eight legs which are all joined to the head. (cephalothorax) Spiders also have eight eyes.
- All **invertebrates** have their skeletons on the outside of their body. This is called an **exoskeleton**.
- All **insects have 3 body parts and 6 legs attached to the thorax**. Two antennae come off the head. Wings when present are also attached to the thorax.
- **Scorpion's** sting with the tail and glow under ultra-violet light.
- A baby **beetle** is a larva. A beetle starts its life as a grub. A small beetle is not a baby it is simply the adult of a small type of beetle.
- A baby **fly** is a maggot or larva.
- A baby **moth** or **caterpillar** is called a caterpillar.
- A **butterfly** or **moth** has four stages in their development; the egg, caterpillar pupa or chrysalis (they mean the same) and adult butterfly or moth.
- **Butterflies** do not have a cocoon covering their chrysalises or pupae. Generally, a cocoon is the cover (usually silk) for a moth chrysalis or pupa.