



WILD Kids



K-3

Published by the Arizona Game & Fish Department - Education Branch and the Heritage Fund

Number 7

What Is An Arthropod?

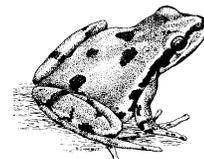
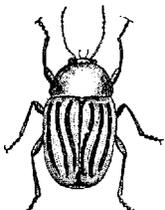
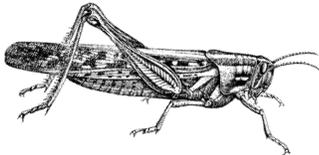
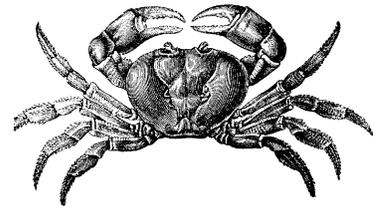
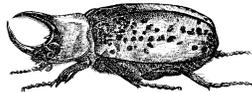
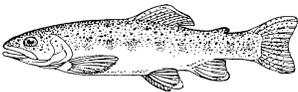
Do you know what an arthropod is? You see arthropods everyday. They can be found inside buildings. They are found all over outside. But what are arthropods?

Arthropods are the crawly things you see everywhere. Insects, ticks and sowbugs are arthropods. Spiders, crabs and lobsters are arthropods. Centipedes and millipedes are arthropods. And so are scorpions and daddy long-legs. Why are all these creatures called arthropods?

All arthropods have three things in common. First, their bodies are separated into **segments**. This means that there are distinct head and body sections. Second, all arthropods have an **exoskeleton**. An exoskeleton is a hard outer covering. Finally, arthropods have two of each **appendage**. The appendages come in pairs - 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, or more. An appendage can be a leg, antenna, claw or wing.

So the next time you go outside, look for arthropods. But remember, look only and do not touch. Many arthropods can bite or sting.

Circle all the arthropods below. Can you name all the creatures below?



Answer the following questions about the two arthropods below.

On the line below each picture, write the name of each arthropod. The one on the left is called the Palo Verde Root Borer Beetle. The other is called a Desert Centipede.

How many segments are there in the Centipede's body? _____

How many segments are there in the Palo Verde Root Borer Beetle's body? _____

How many legs are there on this Centipede? _____

How many legs are there on the Palo Verde Root Borer Beetle? _____

How many segments are there in the Palo Verde Root Borer Beetle's antenna? _____

Look at the Centipede closely. Both the head and tail look similar. Circle the end that you think is the head.

Why do you think both ends look similar? _____

