

WHO'S WHO?

BUTTERFLY



thin body – thin antennae –
upright wings – out during day

MOTH



thick body – fuzzy antennae –
out during evening or night

MONARCH



larger – no black line across
hind wing

VICEROY



smaller – black line across the
hind wing

WASP



thin waist – smooth –
more aggressive

BEE



thicker waist – fuzzy –
not usually aggressive

FLY



2 wings – large eyes

BEE

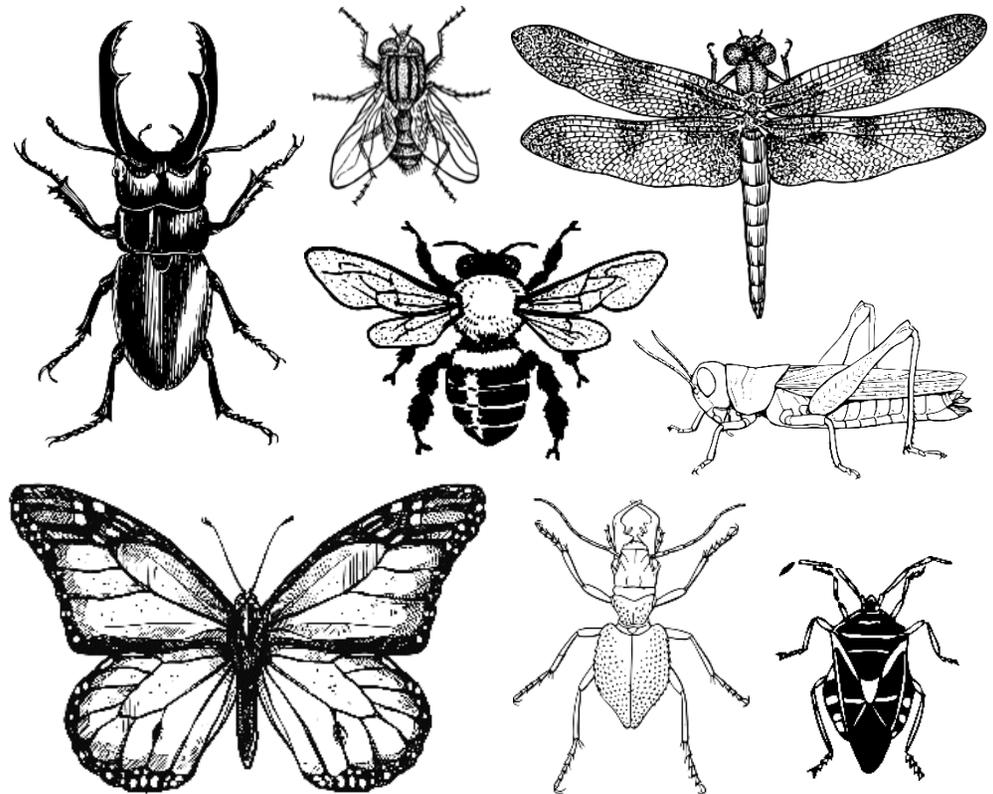


4 wings – smaller eyes

Images by Kankakee County SWCD or from pixabay.com and unsplash.com.

Major Insect Groups

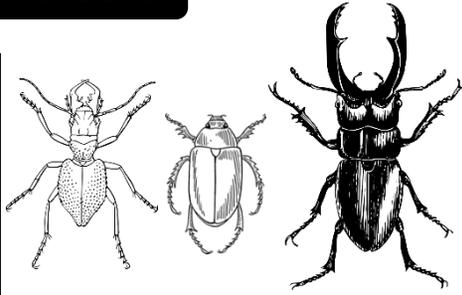
Explore the biodiversity of the largest group
of creatures on Earth!



MAJOR INSECT GROUPS

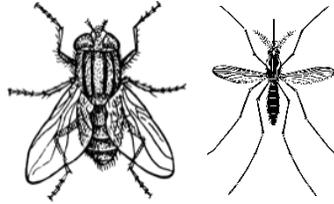
COLEOPTERA: BEETLES

Beetles come in all shapes, colors, and sizes! All beetles have **chewing mouthparts** called **mandibles** that allow them to eat plant parts and other things. They also have an outer wing casing that forms a **hard, protective shell!**



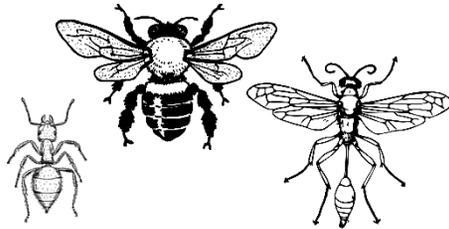
DIPTERA: FLIES & MOSQUITOES

Flies are usually **small**. They are different than other insects because they only have **2 wings!** Flies have **big eyes** and a mouth that can suck fluids, like a mosquito, or sponge fluids, like a house fly!



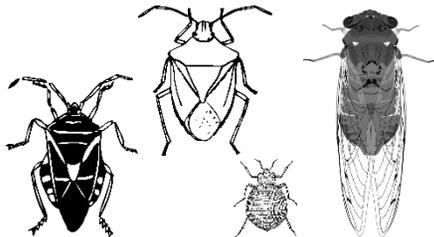
HYMENOPTERA: ANTS, BEES, and WASPS

Ants, bees, and wasps have **4 clear wings**, with the front wings larger than the back wings. Ants only have wings for a short time when they are adults. Many ants, bees, and wasps can sting – but only the females do!



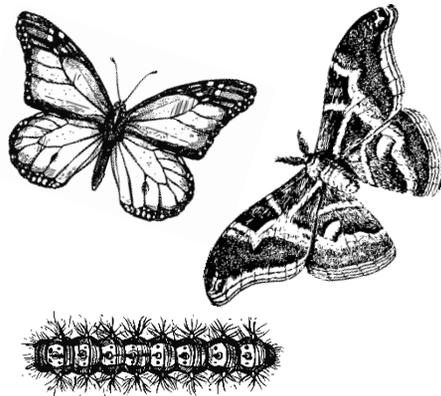
HEMIPTERA: TRUE BUGS

True bugs come in many different shapes and sizes. Some have long legs for walking, while others can swim. Some can fly, and some don't have wings. One thing is for sure, all true bugs have a long, thin **straw-like mouth for sucking!**



LEPIDOPTERA: BUTTERFLIES and MOTHS

Butterflies and moths have **large, beautiful wings** covered in tiny scales that you can see under the microscope. They have **long antennae**, and a long **straw-like mouth called a proboscis** that coils up into a little spiral.

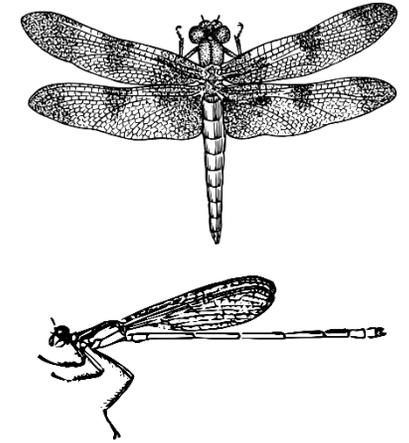


Butterflies and moths lay eggs that hatch into **caterpillars**. A butterfly caterpillar will form a **chrysalis**, while a moth caterpillar will form a **cocoon**.

ODONATA: DRAGONFLIES and DAMSELFLIES

Dragonflies and damselflies have **long, slender abdomens** with **two pairs of wings** (4 wings total). They have very **large compound eyes**.

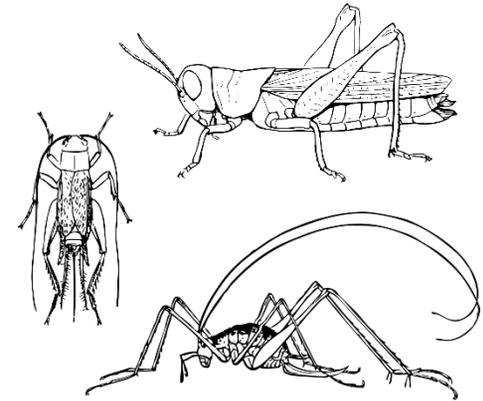
Dragonflies and damselflies look very similar. The primary difference between the two is how they hold their wings at rest. **Dragonflies spread their wings** out and away from their bodies, while **damselflies fold their wings** together.



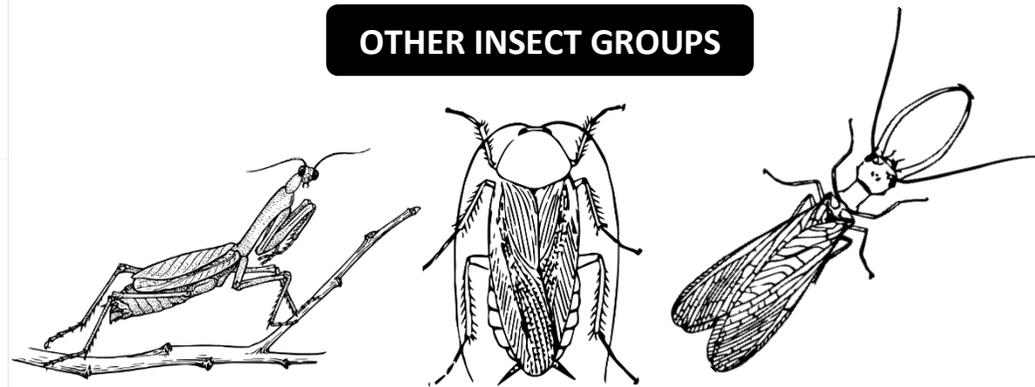
ORTHOPTERA: GRASSHOPPERS, CRICKETS, and KATYDIDS

Grasshoppers, crickets, and katydid have long, cylindrical bodies with **large, powerful hindlegs** adapted for jumping. These insects have chewing mouthparts.

Grasshoppers have shorter antennae, and “sing” by rubbing their hind legs against their wings. **Crickets and katydids have long antennae**, chirp by rubbing their wings together, and have a visible ovipositor (egg laying organ).



OTHER INSECT GROUPS



MANTODEA:
MANTISES

BLATTODEA: COCKROACHES
and TERMITES

MEGALOPTERA:
DOBSONFLIES

... and many more!