



CAPTAIN CURIOSITY'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE

Topic: Insects

EVER WONDER WHAT AN INSECT LOOKS LIKE? All

insects have three body parts, six legs and two antennae. Insects also have a skeleton, but unlike humans, it's on the outside of their body. This is called an

“exoskeleton.” Other than these things, insects can look very different. For example, the tiniest beetle can fit through the eye of a needle, while the largest one is as big as your fist! Some insects are blue, yellow, red, orange -- even pink. Some have tiny legs and big wings; others have tiny wings and big legs. Some have huge bodies and no wings at all!



EVER WONDER IF A SPIDER IS AN INSECT? Spiders are creepy and crawly, but they are not insects. So what is the difference? Spiders have eight legs, two body parts and no antennae or wings.

EVER WONDER WHAT THE THREE PARTS OF AN INSECT ARE CALLED? The three parts of an insect are the head (where the antennae are attached), thorax (where the legs are attached) and abdomen.



EVER WONDER WHAT YOU CALL A SCIENTIST WHO STUDIES INSECTS?

A scientist who studies insects is called an entomologist. Entomologists study what insects do, where they live, what they eat and how they act. Entomologists also classify insects and put them into groups by how they are the same or different.

EVER WONDER IF SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED EVERY INSECT IN THE WORLD?

Scientists have discovered more than 30 million different insects, but they

believe there are thousands more that have yet to be identified.

EVER WONDER WHICH INSECTS ARE HELPFUL? The world is full of helpful insects: butterflies help to grow flowers by carrying pollen; honey bees make honey; and ladybugs help keep other insects from hurting the leaves on plants.

EVER WONDER WHICH INSECTS ARE HARMFUL? Some insects are trouble-makers. For example, aphids can harm a plant by eating its leaves. Termites can damage a house by eating up the wood inside. And mosquitoes can harm humans by biting them and making them itch or get sick.



You Can Do It!

Create your own insect using the form on the next page. Be sure to give your new insect a funny name! Also, practice singing the parts of an insect to the tune “head, shoulder, knees and toes” – but instead sing, “head, thorax, abdomen!”

THE INSECT I CREATED IS CALLED A:

