



Dragonflies are amazing fliers, capable of hovering and even flying backwards. They have been around for over 300 million years, making them one of the oldest insect species.



A fun fact about grasshoppers is that they have ears on their bellies! Specifically, their ears are located on the abdomen.



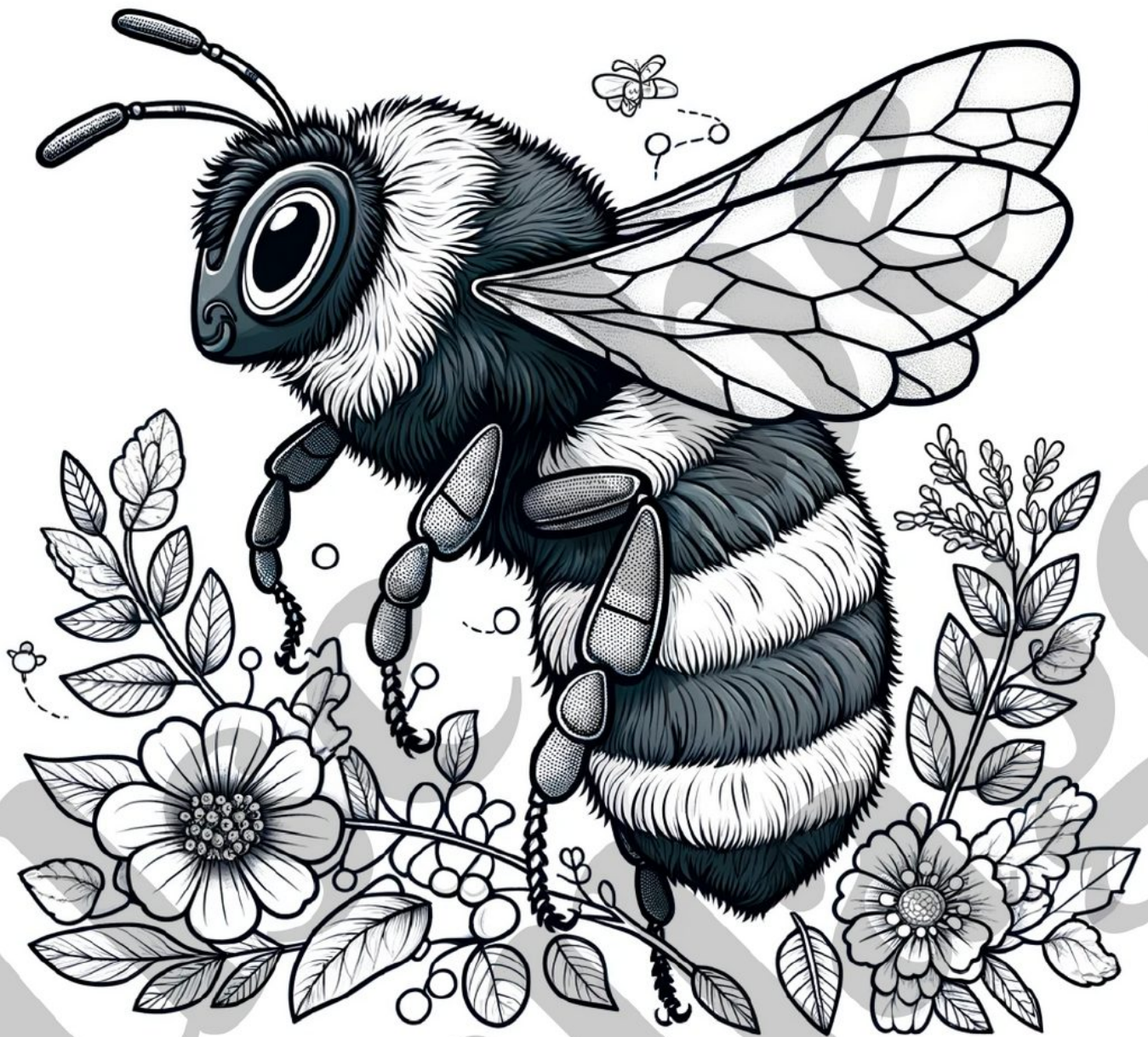
An interesting fact about leafcutter ants is that they don't actually eat the leaves they cut. Instead, they use them to grow a fungus, which is their primary food source.



Ladybugs are fascinating insects; a fun fact about them is that they can eat thousands of aphids during their lifetime, making them a natural pest control agent for gardens!



Butterflies are known for their beautiful wings and are important pollinators. A fascinating fact about butterflies is that they taste with their feet!



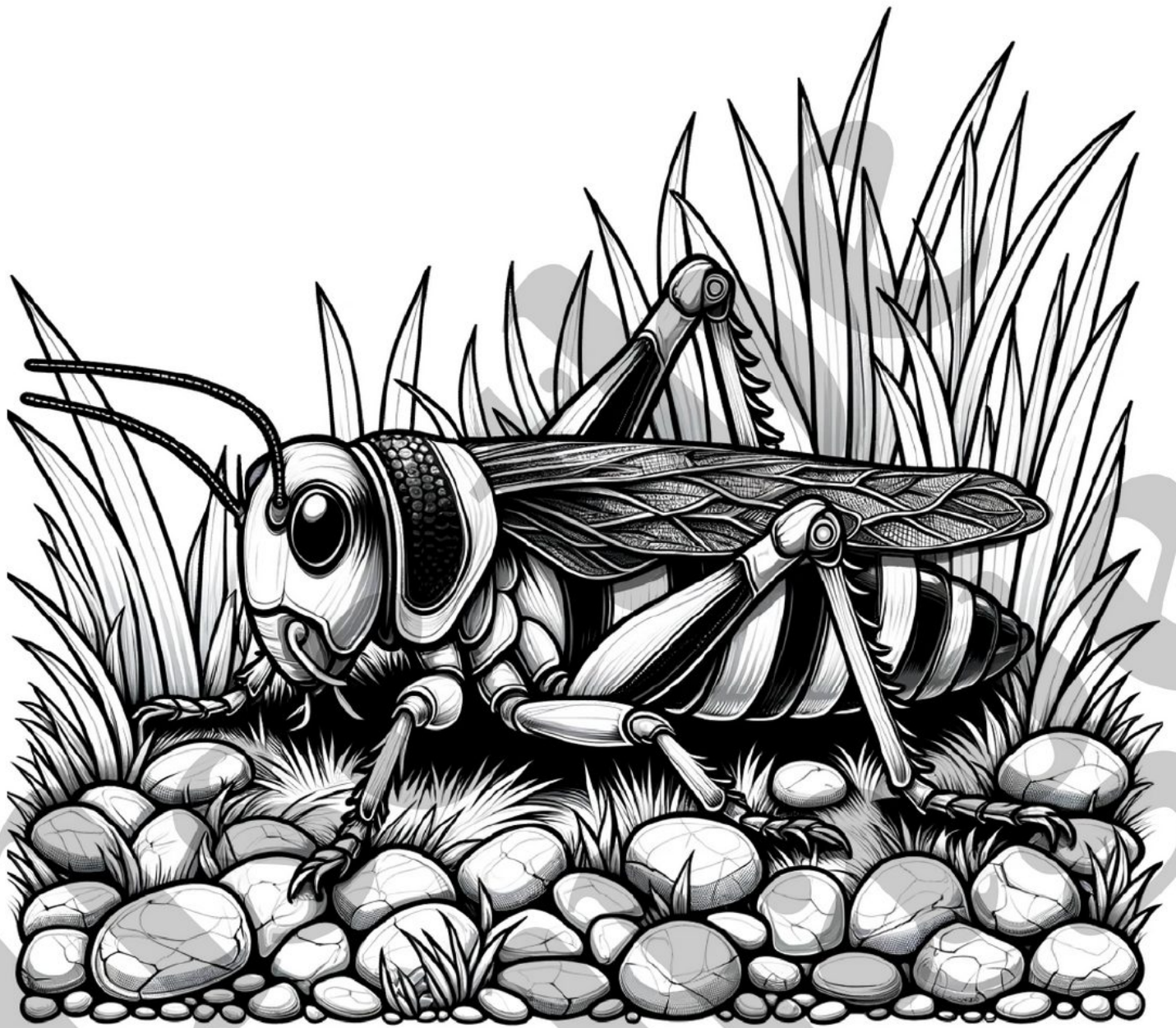
Bumblebees are important pollinators and are known for their loud buzzing. They have a unique ability to buzz pollinate, which helps release pollen in certain types of flowers.



Beetles are one of the largest groups of insects, with over 350,000 known species. They play various roles in the environment, such as decomposers, predators, and pollinators.



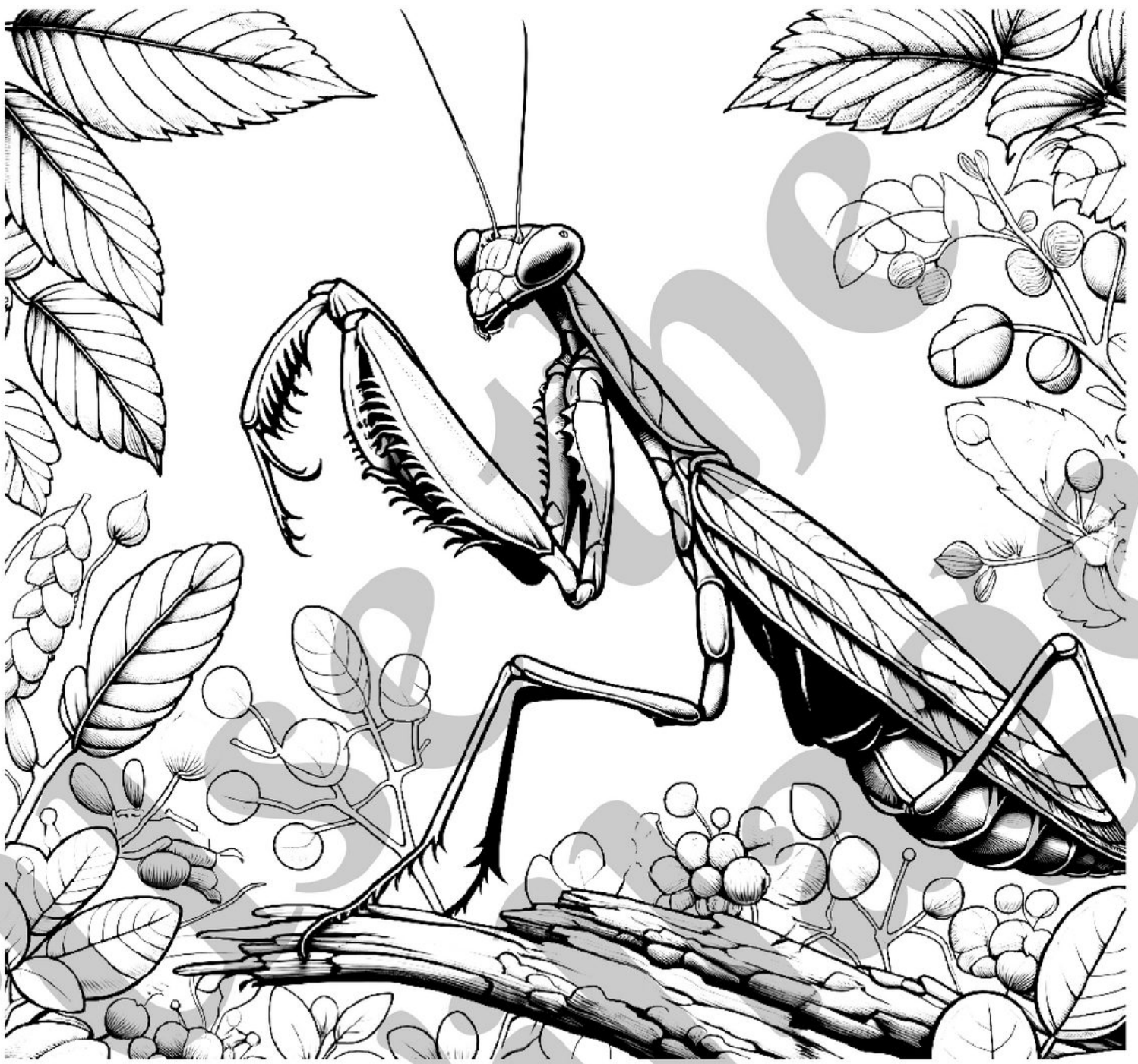
Most spiders have eight eyes, but despite this, many don't have great vision. Instead, they rely on their sensitivity to vibrations and air currents to navigate and detect prey. This is especially true for web-building spiders, who can sense even the slightest movements in their webs.



Crickets don't chirp by rubbing their legs together, as commonly believed. Instead, the chirping sound is made by rubbing their wings together. The frequency of a cricket's chirp even varies with the temperature, and you can actually estimate the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit by counting a cricket's chirps!



Moths are expert navigators and use the moon as a reference point for navigation. Some species, however, get confused by artificial lights, which is why you often see moths circling around lamps.



Praying mantises have a unique hunting method. They use their front legs to swiftly snatch their prey with precision. Interestingly, their head can rotate 180 degrees, allowing them to scan their surroundings effectively.



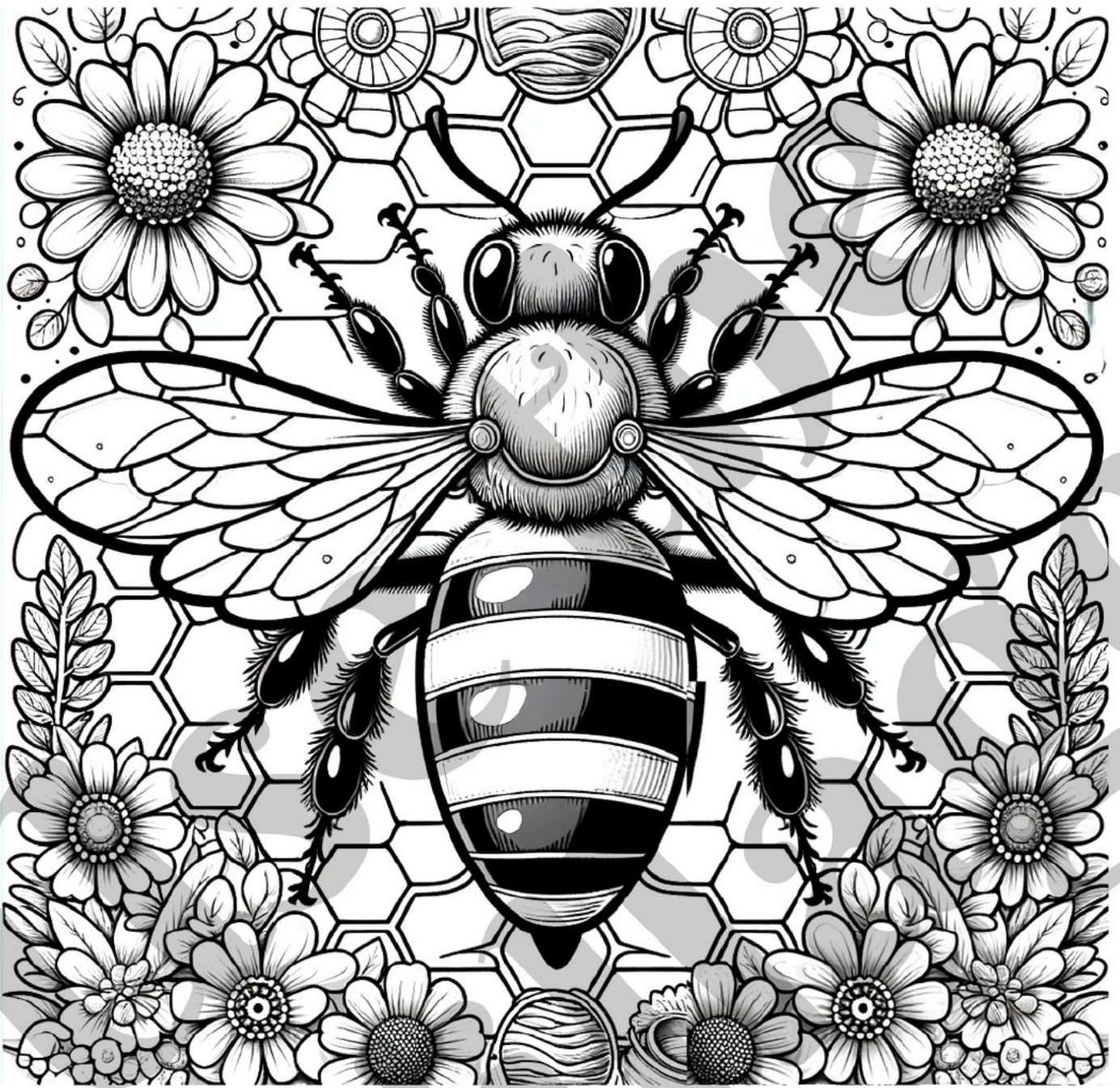
Caterpillars have the incredible ability to eat a vast amount of food compared to their body size. In fact, during its life cycle, a caterpillar can eat up to 27,000 times its body weight!



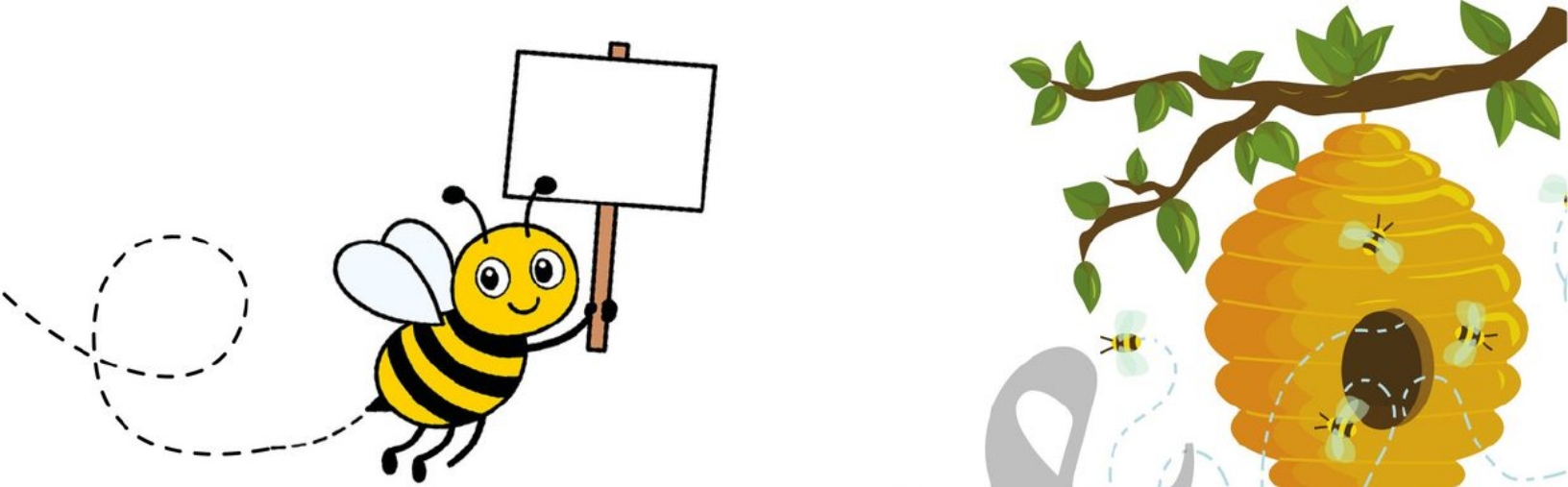
Pill bugs are not insects but are actually crustaceans, related to shrimp and crabs. They are one of the few crustaceans that have adapted to live their entire life on land. They can also roll into a ball for protection.



Unlike bees, wasps can sting multiple times. They play a crucial role in the ecosystem, both as pollinators and as natural pest controllers, preying on other insects.



Honeybees communicate with each other through a "waggle dance." When a bee finds a good source of nectar, it returns to the hive and performs a dance to tell the other bees the direction and distance of the flowers.



Reader's Theater:

Bees On Strike!



Characters:

- Narrator
- Beatrix (Queen Bee, wise and proud)
- Buzzy (funny worker bee who loves pollen jokes)
- Moxie (determined and dramatic worker bee)
- Farmer Fran (kind-hearted but clueless about pollination)
- Mayor Maple (nervous town leader)
- Petal (a young bee who asks lots of questions)
- Ricky (a kid who starts the Clean-Up Crew)

Optional Props:

- Antennae headbands for bees
- Yellow and black sashes or vests
- Clipboard or megaphone for Moxie
- Straw hat and apron for Farmer Fran
- A small jar of "honey" (can be a labeled prop)
- Signs that say "Pollination = Power!" and "Buzz Off, Litter!"
- Toy shovels or seed packets for garden scenes
- Face paint or stickers for Bee Day

Narrator:

Just a few years ago, Bloomville was buzzing with life. Every yard had patches of dandelions, wildflowers bloomed along every sidewalk, and bees happily floated from blossom to blossom. The town was full of color, laughter, and buzzing wings. It was a paradise for pollinators.

But over time, things started to change. People wanted perfect, green lawns with no "weeds." Dandelions were sprayed, clover was pulled, and pesticides became more common. The flowers began to disappear, and with them, the bees.

Now, on this sunny spring morning, something was wrong. The gardens were quiet. The fruit trees were bare—no apples, no cherries, not even a single plum. And while the air once hummed with bees, today... there was only silence.

Mayor Maple:

(Sniffing a daisy sadly) What's going on? Where are the bees? No buzz, no bloom, no blueberries!

Narrator:

Meanwhile, deep inside the hive, the bees were having a serious meeting.

Beatrix:

(Sternly) Bees of Bloomingville! We're officially on strike! We refuse to pollinate until the humans clean up their act!

Buzzy:

(Laughing) You heard the queen! No pollen parties until there's less trash and more wildflowers!

Beatrix:

(Holding up a sign) We're tired of dodging lawnmowers, pesticides, and loud cars! It's time for action!

Petal:

(Concerned) But what if the humans don't listen?

Beatrix:

Then they'll learn what life is like without bees. No apples, no cucumbers, no flowers...

Narrator:

The bees buzzed in agreement, stomping their tiny feet and waving their protest signs. Back at the farm, Farmer Fran was scratching her head.

Farmer Fran:

(Squinting at her apple tree) Why aren't my blossoms turning into apples? Did I plant duds?

Narrator:

That's when Mayor Maple arrived, holding a very wilted bouquet.

Mayor Maple:

Oh no! The bees are gone, and the town is in trouble. What do we do?

Farmer Fran:

(Thinking) Maybe the bees are upset. Let's go see them. Bring a muffin. Bees like muffins, right?

Narrator:

And so, Farmer Fran and Mayor Maple tipped to the hive with a peace offering.

Beatrix:

(Confidently) Welcome, humans! We've been expecting you.

Buzzy:

(With a wink) We're on a buzznreak! Want honey? Fix the planet.

Moxie:

(Handing over a tiny clipboard) Here's our list: less spraying, more planting, no plastic near flowers, and bee hotels. We're serious.

Maya and Maple:

(Awkwardly) What's a bee hotel? Does it have tiny windows?

Beatrix:

(Sighing) It's a safe spot for wild bees to rest. Your gardens are full of flowers, but nowhere to stay.

Petal:

Excuse me, but if we stop pollinating forever, won't we miss the flowers too?

Beatrix:

That's why we hope they change, but we'll hold strong until they do.

Farmer Fran:

Gosh. I didn't know it was that bad. I just wanted my apples.

Narrator:

The bees pointed to trash near their clover patch, wilted flowers, and a sign that read “Lawn chemicals in use.”

Moxie:

See this? Bees can’t thrive with poison in the pollen.

Mayor Maple:

(Reading the list) This is totally doable. We can help!

Narrator:

And so, the town of Bloomsville got to work. Kids planted wildflowers. Adults pulled weeds and picked up trash. Ricky, a local student, started the Bloomsville Clean-Up Crew!

Ricky:

(Excited) We planted bee-friendly herbs and painted signs that say “Bee Kind!”

Narrator:

Even the grocery store put out a “Bee Safe” pledge for customers. Everyone wanted the bees back.

Buzzy:

(Sniffing a tulip) This pollen smells pesticide-free!

Petal:

(Squealing) We did it! We made a difference!

Beatrix:

Very well. Bees, prepare for pollination!

Moxie:

Let the pollination parade begin!

Narrator:

And that Friday, Bloomville hosted its first-ever Bee Day, complete with flower cupcakes, face paint, and a new song:

All Bees (together):

(Singing) Buzz, buzz, we're back again, With gardens blooming thanks to friends. You heard our plea, you saved the day, Now bees and blooms are here to stay!

Narrator:

From that day forward, Bloomville and its bees worked together, keeping the planet—and each other—buzzing along.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why did the bees decide to go on strike?

What problems did Bloomville face when the bees stopped working?

How did the humans respond once they understood the bees' message?

Beatrix



Moxie



Buzzy



Farmer Fran



Mayor Maple



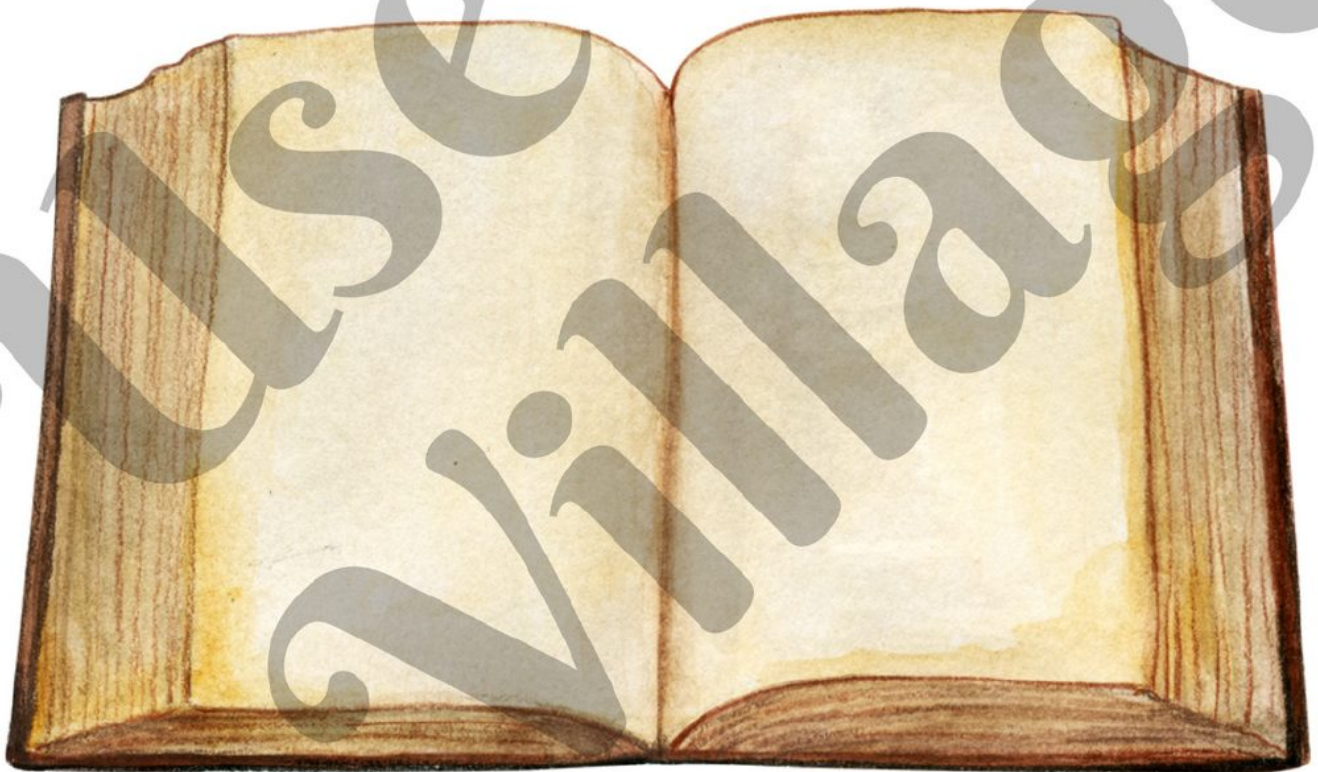
Petal



Ricky



Narrator



Beatrix



Moxie



Buzzy



Farmer Fran



Mayor Maple



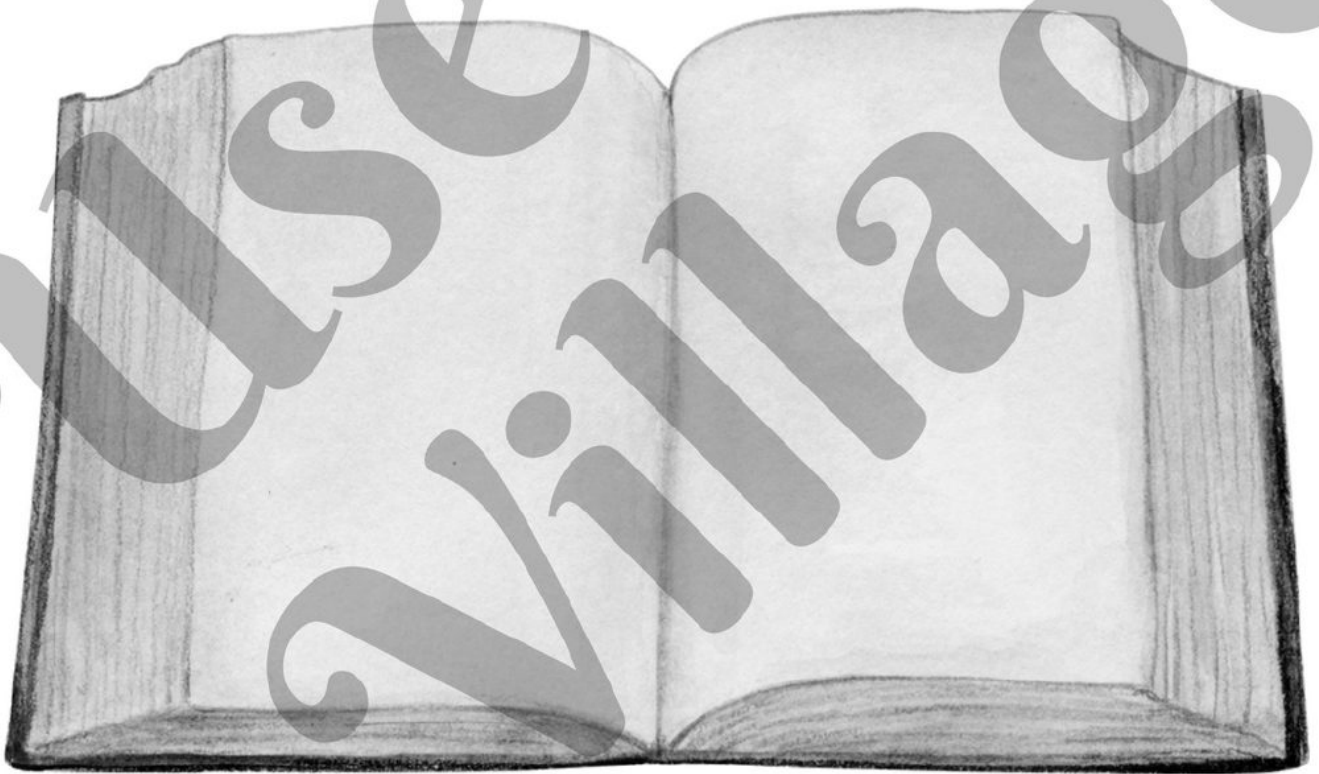
Petal



Ricky



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

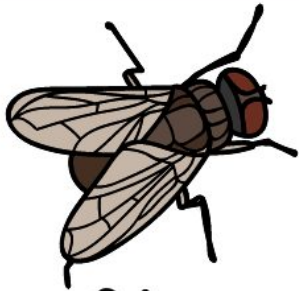
Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

- Create a Bee Pledge: Students can write one sentence each about how they will help bees and display it on a classroom hive board.
- Design a Protest Sign: Students can create mini protest signs for the bees with environmental slogans.
- Pollination Relay: Act out how pollination works using pom-poms as pollen and flowers made from cups.
- Interview a Bee: In pairs, one student plays a bee, and the other reports back about the strike.
- Wildflower Seed Art: Use cotton and wildflower seeds to create bee-friendly art students can display and plant.
- Bee Parade Assembly: Let students dress up as bees and report about their favorite bee-friendly plants for an assembly or class or parents.
- Map a Bee-Friendly Garden: Students can draw and design an ideal garden with labels for flowers, bee hives and signs.

INSECT BINGO



fly



butterfly



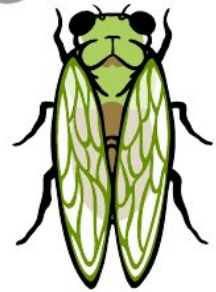
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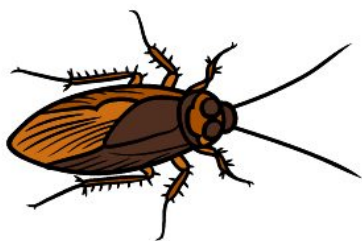
praying
mantis



ladybug



cicada



cockroach



ant



mosquito

INSECT BINGO



caterpillar



bee



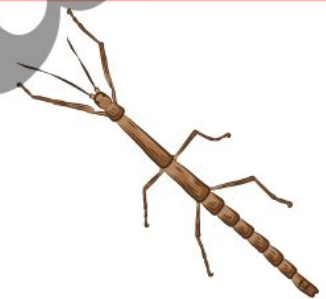
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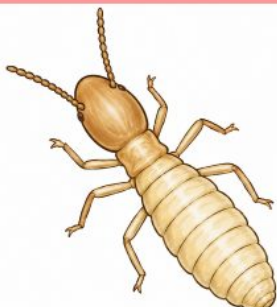
dragonfly



beetle



walking stick



termite

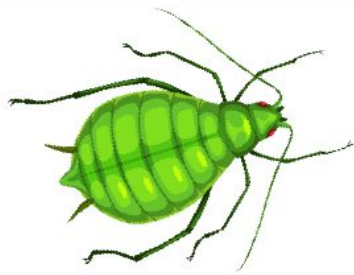


moth



stink bug

INSECT BINGO



aphid



earwig



wasp



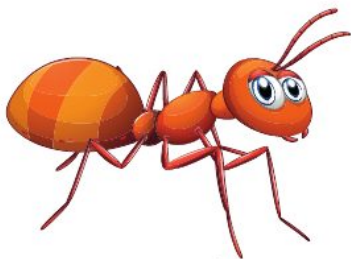
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firefly



katydid



ant



wasp



firefly

INSECT BINGO



ladybug



moth



mosquito



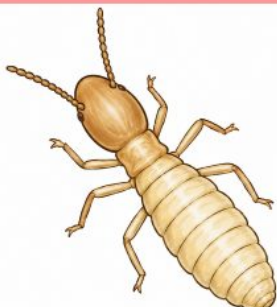
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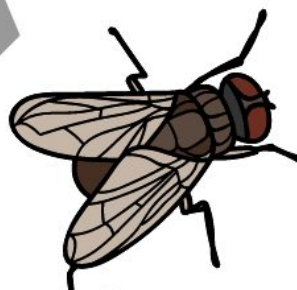
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aphid



termite

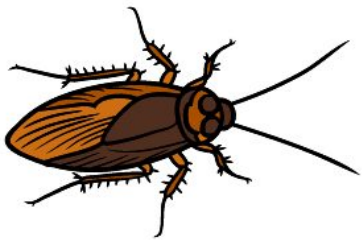


fly



**praying
mantis**

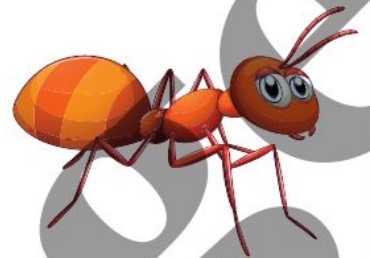
INSECT BINGO



cockroach



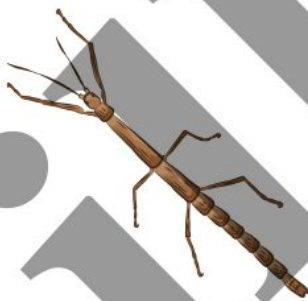
beetle



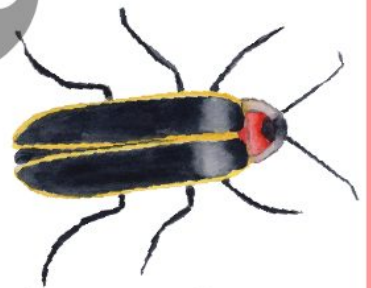
ant



moth



walking stick



firefly



praying
mantis



termite



wasp

INSECT BINGO



stink bug



firefly



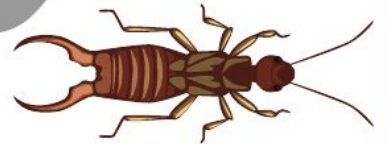
moth



beetle



cicada



earwig



flea



bee



ladybug

INSECT BINGO



dragonfly



silverfish



stink bug



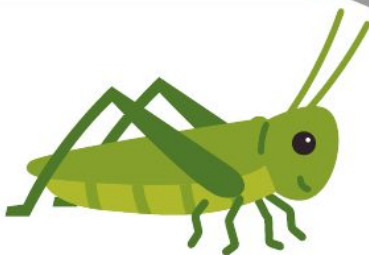
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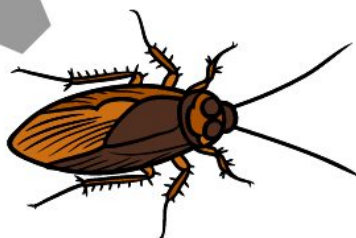
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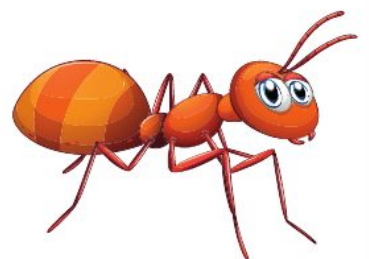
butterfly



grasshopper



cockroach

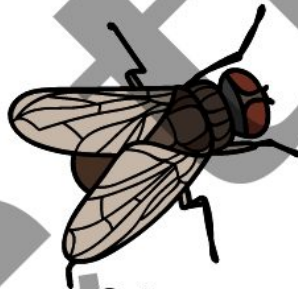


ant

INSECT BINGO



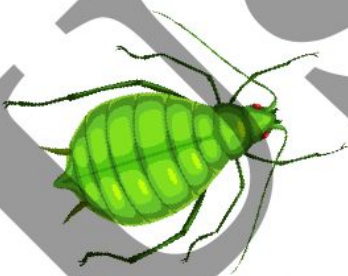
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fly



dragonfly



aphid



butterfly



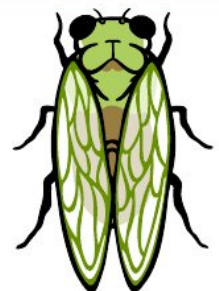
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bee

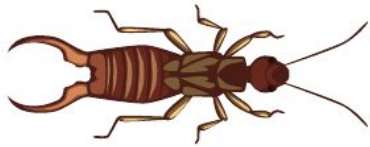


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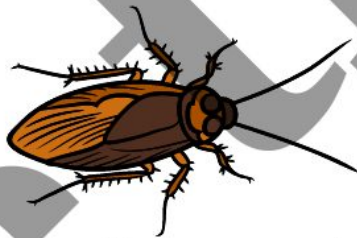


cicada

INSECT BINGO



earwig



cockroach



termite



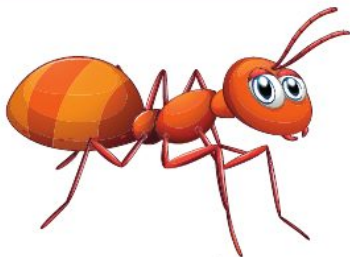
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grasshopper



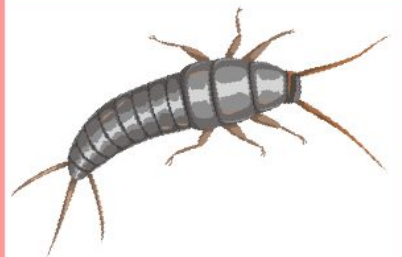
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ant



caterpillar



silverfish

INSECT BINGO



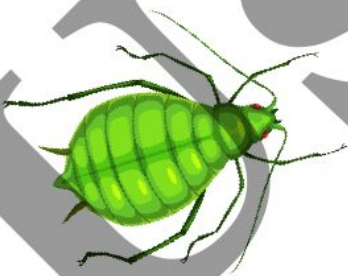
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termite



katydid



aphid



cicada



**praying
mantis**



dragonfly

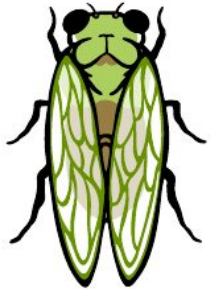


walking stick



earwig

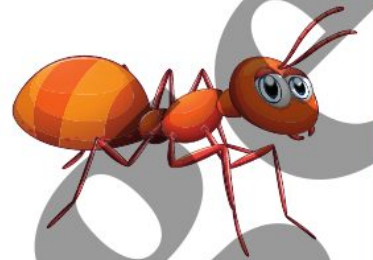
INSECT BINGO



cicada



katydid



ant



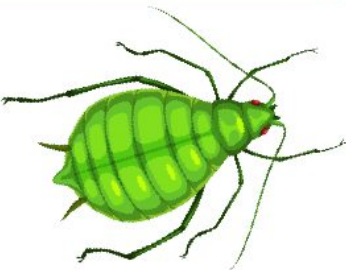
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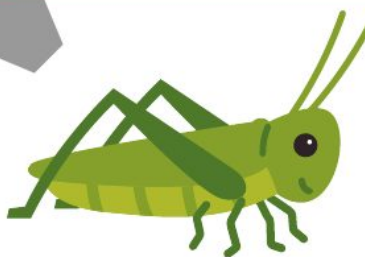
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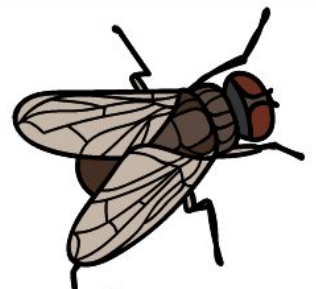
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aphid



grasshopper

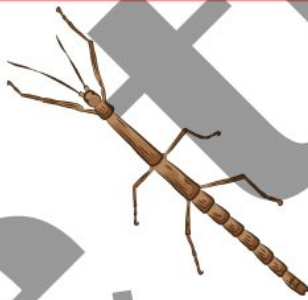


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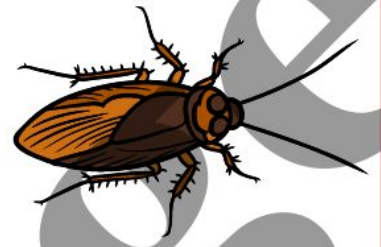
INSECT BINGO



bee



walking stick



cockroach



wasp



katydid



termite



butterfly

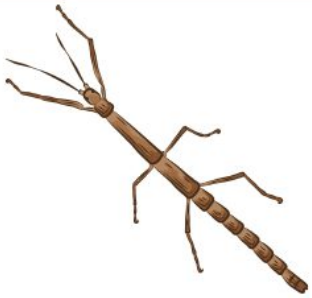


caterpillar



moth

INSECT BINGO



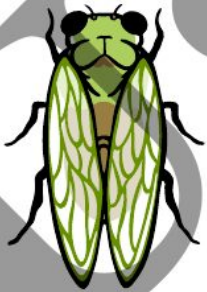
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mosquito



silverfish



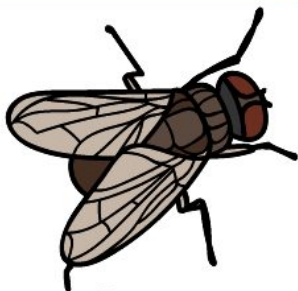
cicada



praying
mantis



dragonfly



fly

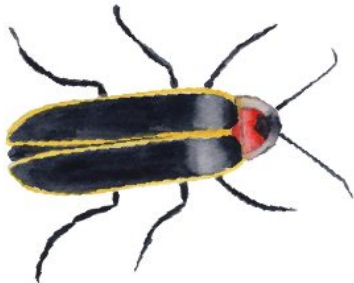


flea



bee

INSECT BINGO



firefly



grasshopper



bee



mosquito



wasp



butterfly



stink bug



dragonfly



walking stick

INSECT BINGO



beetle



praying
mantis



caterpillar



flea



silverfish



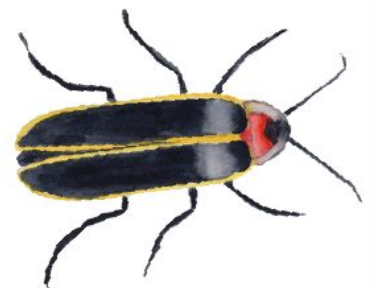
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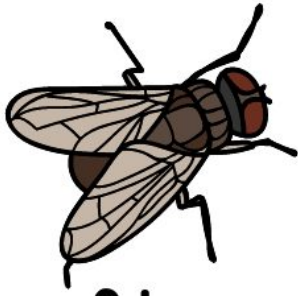
katydid



butterfly



firefly



fly



butterfly



grasshopper



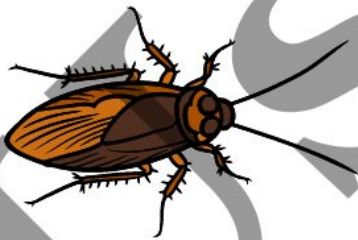
praying
mantis



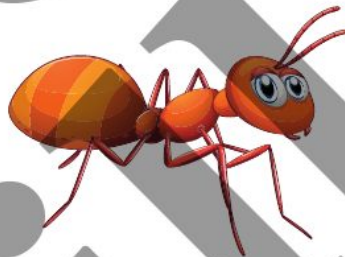
ladybug



cicada



cockroach



ant



mosquito



silverfish



firefly



katydid



caterpillar



bee



flea



dragonfly



beetle



walking stick



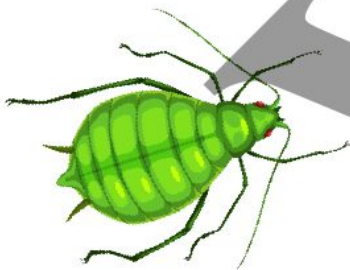
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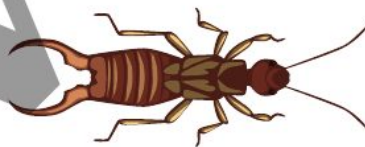
moth



stink bug



aphid



earwig



wasp

Name: _____ Date: _____



INSECTS

WORD SEARCH



Find the words below in the word search.

F	C	N	C	I	C	A	D	A	F	Z	C
O	N	A	L	C	D	R	J	R	C	R	O
Q	W	Q	T	A	W	H	N	I	D	L	C
B	R	V	M	E	D	B	Q	J	B	E	K
E	C	Y	O	X	R	Y	E	Q	O	F	R
E	F	E	S	A	I	P	B	E	Q	G	O
T	C	T	Q	T	D	D	I	U	B	F	A
L	F	X	U	L	N	K	H	L	G	L	C
E	I	B	I	T	B	A	L	B	L	E	H
L	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	A	S
I	Y	E	O	M	A	N	T	I	S	P	R
P	D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	Z	U

COCKROACH
BEE
CATERPILLAR
ANT

DRAGONFLY
FLEA
BUTTERFLY
MANTIS

MOSQUITO
LADYBUG
BEETLE
CICADA

Name: _____ Date: _____



INSECTS

WORD SEARCH



Find the words below in the word search.

F	C	N	C	I	C	A	D	A	F	Z	C
O	N	A	L	C	D	R	J	R	C	R	O
Q	W	Q	T	A	W	H	N	I	D	L	C
B	R	V	M	E	D	B	Q	J	B	E	K
E	C	Y	O	X	R	Y	E	Q	O	F	R
E	F	E	S	A	I	P	B	E	Q	G	O
T	C	T	Q	T	D	D	I	U	B	F	A
L	F	X	U	L	N	K	H	L	G	L	C
E	I	B	I	T	B	A	L	B	L	E	H
L	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	A	S
I	Y	E	O	M	A	N	T	I	S	P	R
P	D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	Z	U

COCKROACH

BEE

CATERPILLAR

ANT

DRAGONFLY

FLEA

BUTTERFLY

MANTIS

MOSQUITO

LADYBUG

BEETLE

CICADA

Name: _____ Date: _____

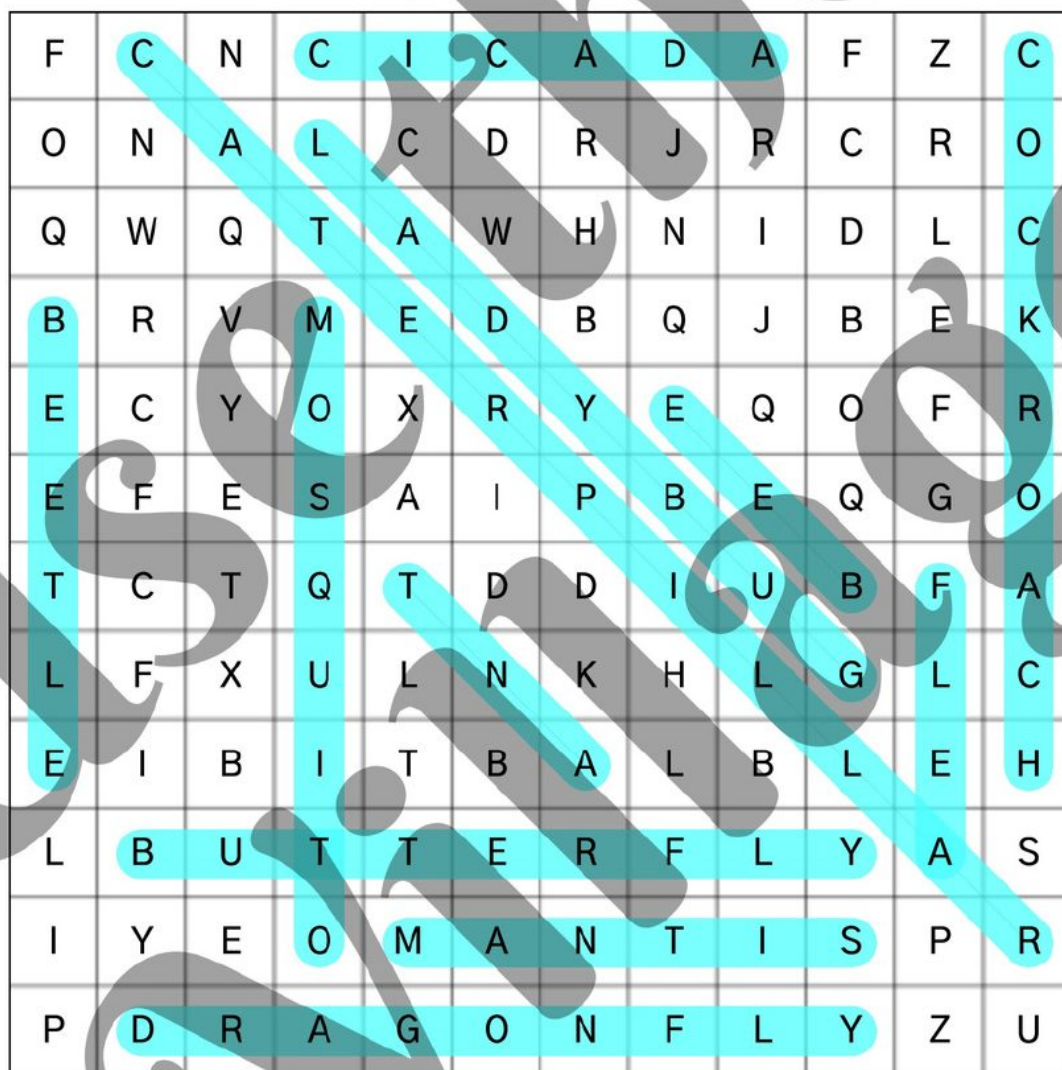


INSECTS

WORD SEARCH



Find the words below in the word search.



COCKROACH

DRAGONFLY

MOSQUITO

BEE

FLEA

LADYBUG

CATERPILLAR

BUTTERFLY

BEETLE

ANT

MANTIS

CICADA

Name: _____ Date: _____



INSECTS

WORD SEARCH



Find the words below in the word search.

F	C	N	C	I	C	A	D	A	F	Z	C
O	N	A	L	C	D	R	J	R	C	R	O
Q	W	Q	T	A	W	H	N	I	D	L	C
B	R	V	M	E	D	B	Q	J	B	E	K
E	C	Y	O	X	R	Y	E	Q	O	F	R
E	F	E	S	A	I	P	B	E	Q	G	O
T	C	T	Q	T	D	D	I	U	B	F	A
L	F	X	U	L	N	K	H	L	G	L	C
E	I	B	I	T	B	A	L	B	L	E	H
L	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	A	S
I	Y	E	O	M	A	N	T	I	S	P	R
P	D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	Z	U

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