

Invertebrates

Lots of wild activities all about creepy crawlies.



This pack contains activities for a mix of ages and school years



What is an invertebrate?

An invertebrate is an animal without a backbone.

Some have soft bodies like slugs, worms and jellyfish. Others have a hard out armoured layer called an exoskeleton like spiders, insects and crustateans.



Over 90% of all species on Earth are invertebrates.

Wild Wordsearch

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

AMOEBA

BUMBLEBEE

COCKROACH

CRUSTACEANS

EARTHWORM

EXOSKELETON

INSECTS

JELLYFISH

LADYBIRD

LOBSTER

NO BACKBONE

SLUG

SPIDER

SQUID

STARFISH



Reaseheath
Mini Zoo

Minibeast muddles

Unscramble the words below to make the names of minibeasts you could find in your garden,

Badleydir

Arrowthem

Eellimpid

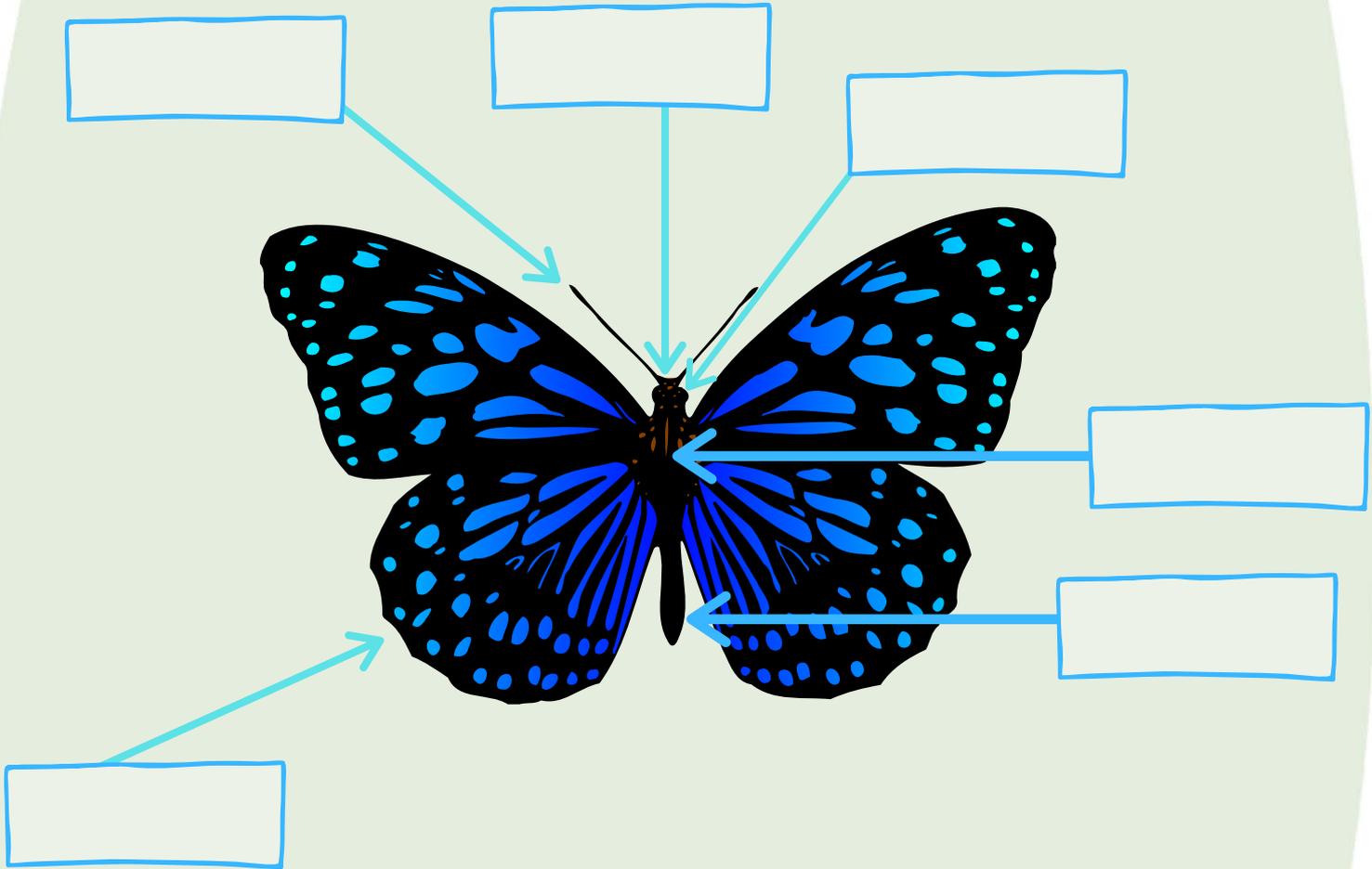
Blued sigh

Belonged true

Gophersspar

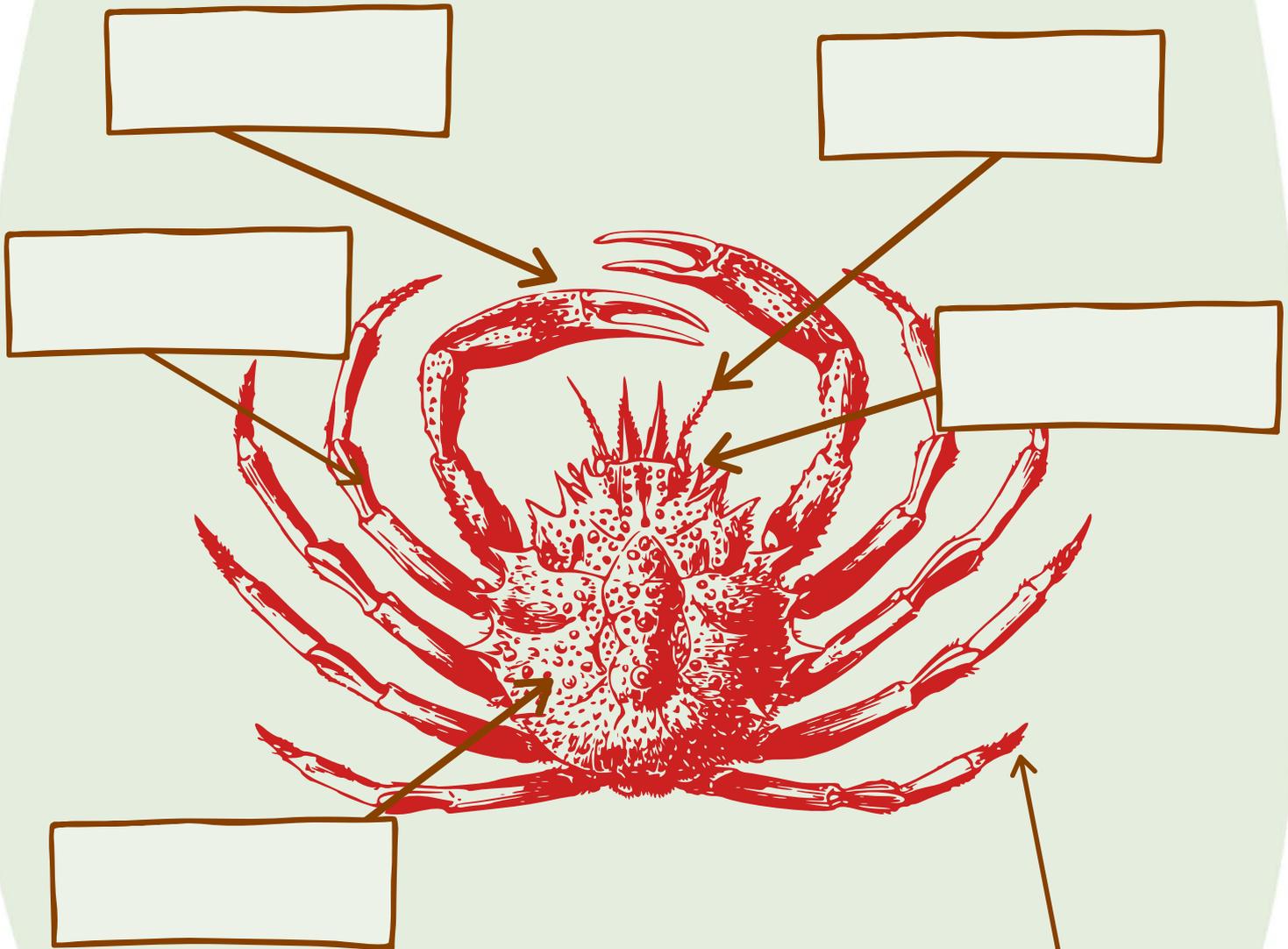
**Outback
perfectly**

Label the Butterfly



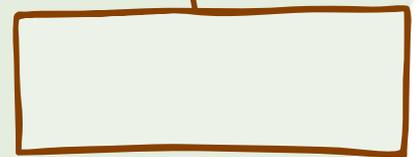
Wing Antenna
Thorax Eye
Abdomen Head

Label the Crab



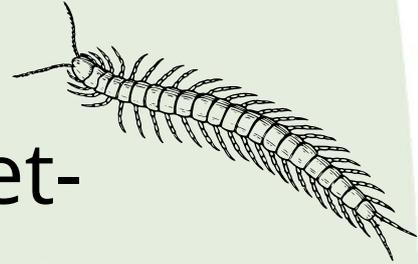
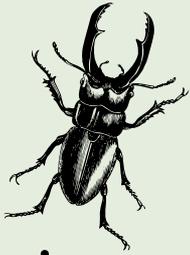
Eye stalk
Swimming leg
Walking leg

Antenna
Pincer
Shell



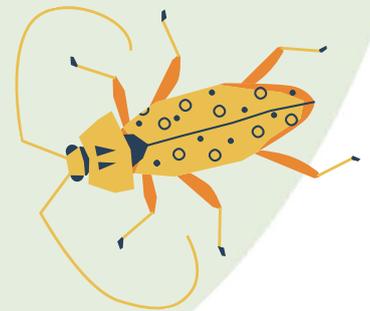
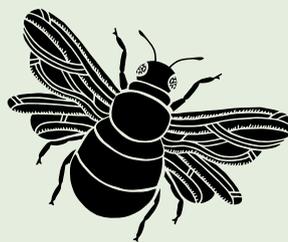
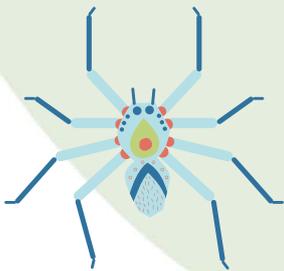
Make a Bug Hotel

Find instructions and ideas here:



www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel

www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bug-mansion



Reaseheath
Mini Zoo

Endoskeletons and Exoskeletons

Create endoskeletons and exoskeletons out of pipe cleaners, clay, and lolly sticks.

Materials

Clay

Pipe cleaners

Lolly sticks

Masking tape

Scissors

Small wooden blocks

Endoskeletons and Exoskeletons

Directions

- Look up the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates. Including endoskeletons and exoskeletons.
- Create two dog/cat-like animals out of clay. The animals should be about the same size and standing on all four legs with a flat back.
- Cut the pipe cleaners to make a 'skeleton' for one of the animals, including a backbone and bones for the animal's legs. Then, shape the clay around the pipe cleaners.
- The other animal should not have a 'skeleton' and should only be made with clay.
- The animal with the pipe cleaners represents a vertebrate with an endoskeleton, while the other animal represents an invertebrate without an exoskeleton.
- Then test the ability of the animals to bear weight by stacking an equal number of blocks, one by one, on each animal.
- Which animal is able to tolerate more weight? (it should be the one with a pipe cleaner skeleton).
 - Then recreate the clay animal without the pipe cleaners inside.
 - Create this animal an exoskeleton for the animal by taping lolly sticks around the clay to reinforce it.
- Repeat the same experiment with the wooden blocks and think about how the exoskeleton changes the results of the experiment.

Answers and Extra activities

Minibeast muddles

Badleydir- Ladybird, Arrowthem- Earthworm, Eellimpid- millipede,
Blued sigh- Shield bug, Belonged true- Ground beetle,
Gophersspar- Grasshopper, Outback perfectly- Peacock Butterfly

Extra Activities

- Go on a bug hunt in your garden or local green area.
- Count the legs and try and use an identification guide to find out which invertebrate family your finds are from.
- Go exploring in the rock pools if you live by the sea or in your pond if your don't to see what inverts you can find. (With an adult.)
- Make your own invertebrates out of recycled materials you can find round the house.