

abdomen

The end section of an insect’s body.

antenna

A pair of long, thin body parts on the heads of insects that are used to feel, smell and sometimes taste.

camouflage

The colour or shape of an animal that helps it blend in with its surroundings.

chrysalis

A hard case made by a caterpillar to cover itself so it can safely transform into a butterfly or moth. Also known as a pupa.

classification

Putting things into groups.

colony

A group of animals, plants or insects of the same kind that live together.

entomology

The scientific study of insects.

food chain

A series of living things that rely on each other for food.

habitat

A place where plants and animals live.

hive

A structure where bees live.

honey

A sweet, golden liquid made by honeybees from the nectar they collect from flowers.

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larva

A young wingless form of an insect. A caterpillar is the larva of a butterfly and a maggot is the larva of a house fly.

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life cycle

The changes a living thing goes through to turn into an adult.

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metamorphosis

When a young insect’s body changes to become an adult. For example, a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly.

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microscope

A device that makes very small objects look bigger when you look into it.

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minibeast

A small animal without a backbone, such as an insect or spider.

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nectar

A sugary liquid that is made by flowers.

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pollen

A fine yellow powder that is made by flowers.

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pooter

A small bottle with two tubes used for collecting insects. Air is sucked through one tube and the insect is drawn into the bottle through the other.

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predator

An animal that eats other animals.

prey

Animals that are eaten by other animals.

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pupa

The stage of an insect’s life cycle where it undergoes dramatic changes from a larva to an adult insect.

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species

A group of plants or animals that share the same characteristics and can breed with each other.

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specimen

Something that is examined or studied.

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thorax

The middle section of an insect’s body, between the head and the abdomen. The legs and wings are attached to this section.