



## Welcome to the World of Insects!

More than half of all the animals on earth are insects. There are many different types of insects, and they can be found just about anywhere. Some are helpful to humans because they attack and eat harmful insects. Others are harmful—they can bite, sting, spread disease, or destroy crops. Because they are so small, many insects go unnoticed. You can recognize an insect by its six legs, three body parts (head, thorax, and abdomen), and two antennae. Most insects also have four wings, but some have only two, and others have none.

Insects change in appearance throughout their lives. When they are young they are called larvae or nymphs. The larvae of some insects are given special names: caterpillars are the larvae of butterflies and moths, and grubs are the larvae of some beetles.

Each insect in this book has been marked with numbers to help you color it as it appears in nature. The numbers and colors are

1—Green	5—Orange
2—Yellow	6—Purple
3—Blue	7—Brown
4—Red	8—Black

If you want to learn more about insects, ask your parents, teachers, or librarian to direct you to books about **entomology**, the science of studying insects.

