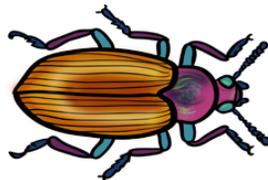


Life Science Level 3 Cursive Version



Beetles & Butterflies



By Bonnie Rose Hudson



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Beetles and Butterflies

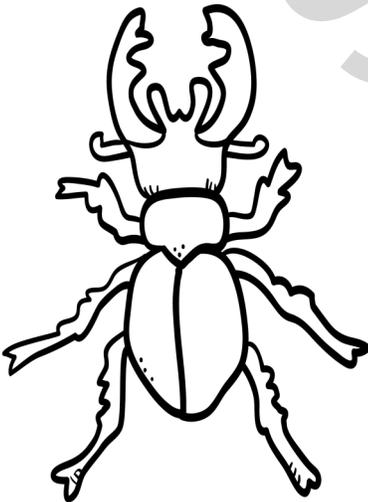
When you're outside and a bug lands on you, do you ever just see a bug? After all, they are all just about the same, right? Actually, no. All the different creepy crawlies you can think of are actually part of the world of invertebrates, and that's a world made up of more than one million different types of animals! Don't worry, we won't look at all of them right now. We're just going to take closer look at some of the animals you might find in your backyard—**beetles** and butterflies.

Beetles are part of an insect order called Coleoptera. They come in all different shapes and sizes. There are skiff beetles, ground beetles, clown beetles, stag beetles, rain beetles, scarab beetles, scavenger beetles, and many other types, including something called a predaceous diving beetle! Ladybugs (also called ladybirds or ladybeetles) also belong to the beetle order, as do fireflies. Beetles live practically everywhere except the oceans. There are beetles living in deserts, rainforests, frigid places, warm places, and most places in between. What makes beetles so special is a pair of wings called elytra. The elytra are tough, leathery covers that work like body armor to protect the beetles.



Beetle

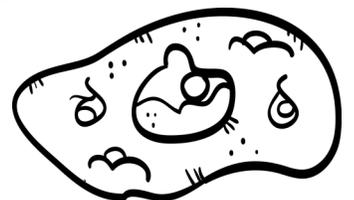
Stag

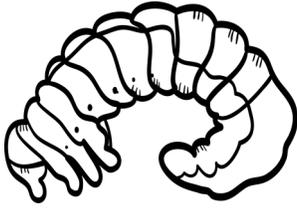


Stag beetle

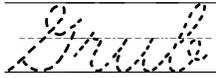
Stag beetles are a family of beetles where some of the males have huge mandibles, which are jaws. The jaws can be almost as long as the beetle is in some species! Because of the way the jaws stick out like horns, they remind some people of male deer, which are called stags.

When it is time to lay her eggs, a female stag beetle looks for dead, rotting trees. She knows the cracks in the bark will be a good, safe place to lay her eggs.

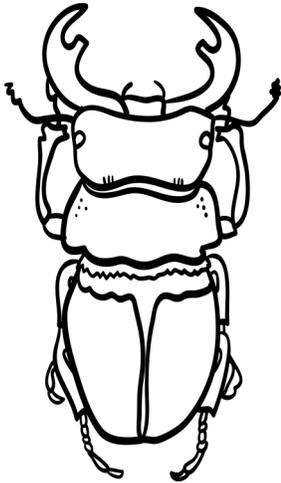




When the eggs hatch, the beetles are called larvae, or **grubs**. As the larvae grows, it fills its exoskeleton, sheds it, and grows a new one. This process is called molting.



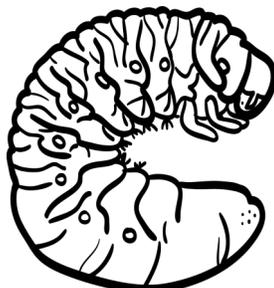
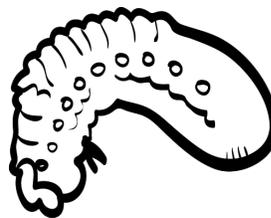
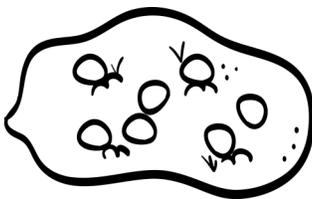
Once the larvae has molted for the last time, it is called a pupa. The pupa looks a lot like the adult, but it's not quite done growing yet. Once it is done growing and is strong enough to survive, it becomes an adult.



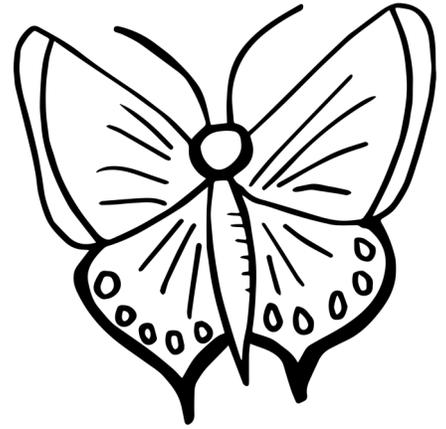
Stag beetles live in various parts of the world. The giant stag beetle lives in the southern United States, while the pinchingbug lives in the eastern United States. The *Odontolabis cypri*, like the one on the left, lives in southeast Asia.

Coconut Rhinceros

The next type of beetle we're going to take a look at is the scarab beetle. There are around 20,000 different kinds of scarabs in the world. Some types lived in ancient Egypt. Another type, called the **coconut rhinceros beetle**, lives in southeast Asia, the South Pacific, and Hawaii. Its life cycle is similar to the stag beetle. Once the eggs hatch into larvae, the beetle grows into a larger and larger larvae until it reaches the pupa and finally the adult stage.



Blues are another kind of gossamer-winged butterfly that are usually blue or violet. The **Karner blue butterfly**, the state butterfly of New Hampshire, is an endangered species. It is only about 1 inch (2.5 cm) across, and is usually shades of blue and gray with orange along the edges of its wings. It lives in several northern states including Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, and Ohio.



Karner blue

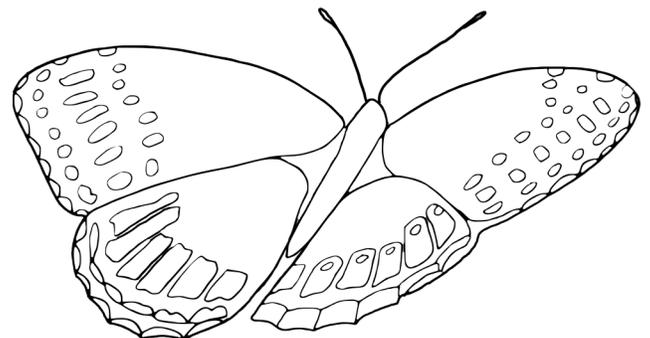
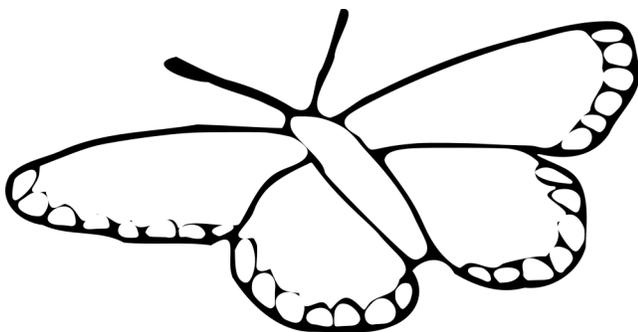
butterfly

Another type of butterfly is the **brush-footed butterfly**. These butterflies get their name from their short front legs called *brush feet*. The butterflies use special organs on their brush feet to help them find food. Many well-known butterflies belong to this special group. Let's meet a few of them.

Brush-footed butterflies

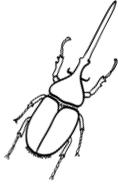
The Baltimore checkerspot butterfly (below on the left) is a beautiful black butterfly with white spots and on its wings and a row of gold spots around the edge of its wings. It is the state insect of Maryland and has a wingspan of about 1.75 to 2.75 inches (4.5 to 7 cm).

The Diana Fritillary butterfly (below on the right) is the state butterfly of Arkansas. Males are orange and black while females are blue and black. Its wingspan is about 3.5 to 4.5 inches (9 to 11.5 cm).

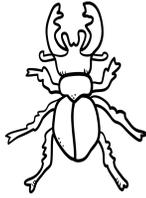


Review (Version 2)

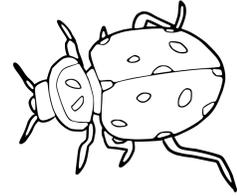
Which type of beetle is known for its huge mandibles? Draw a circle around it.



Scarab

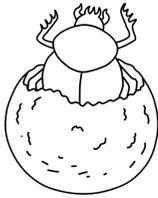


Stag

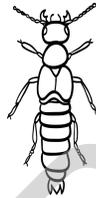


Convergent lady

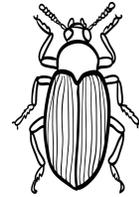
Which type of beetle is known for its rather disgusting food choice? Draw a circle around it.



Dung

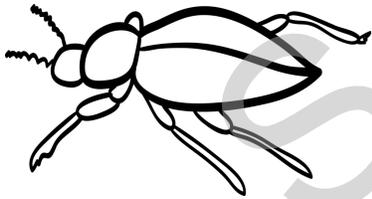


Rove



Darkling

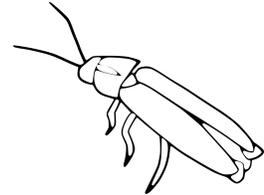
Which type of beetle is known for the damage it can do to plants? Draw a circle around it.



Stink

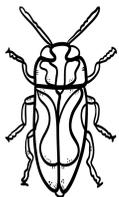


Leaf

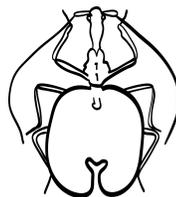


Firefly

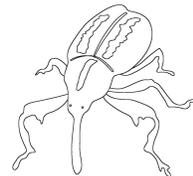
Which type of beetle uses its long snout to bore into fruit and seeds? Draw a circle around it.



Jewel



Violin



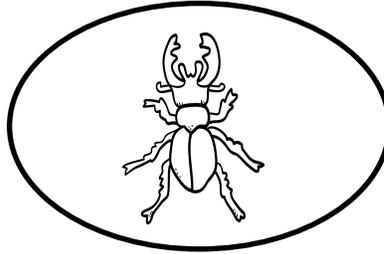
Weevil

Review (Version 2) Answer Key

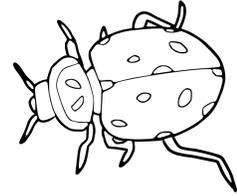
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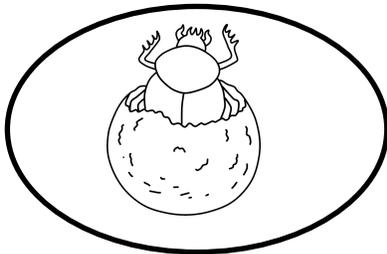


Stag

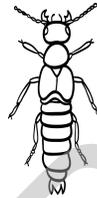


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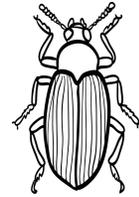
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Dung

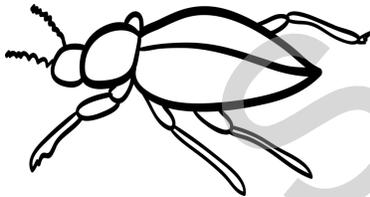


Rove

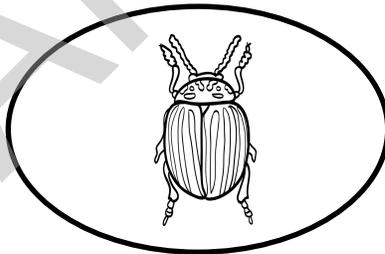


Darkling

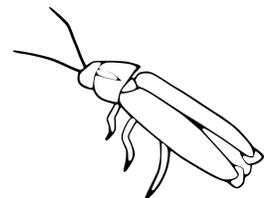
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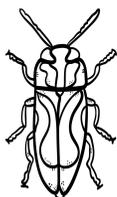


Leaf

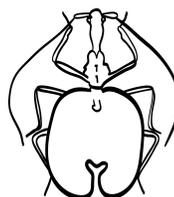


Firefly

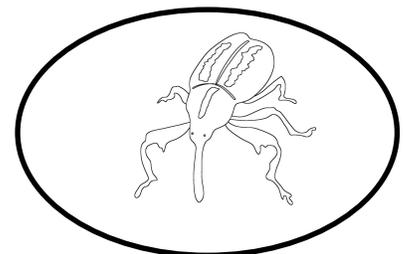
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