



Museum of Natural History

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Vocabulary for Insect Explorers guided program

These are words that are commonly used in the guided program/workshop. Following the definition for most of the vocabulary words, we have included a sentence that incorporates the word.

- Abdomen – The end segment of the body in arthropods.
 - All insects have an abdomen, the end part of its body.
- Antenna – A thin movable sensory organ found in pairs on the heads of insects and crustaceans.
 - Insects use their antenna to learn about their surroundings.
- Arthropod – An invertebrate animal that has jointed limbs, a segmented body, and an exoskeleton made of chitin, e.g. an insect, arachnid, centipede, or crustacean.
 - An insect is one kind of arthropod.
- Characteristics - Features that can be used to identify or distinguish between different things.
 - The number of legs is one characteristic used to identify an insect.
- Classification – A way of arranging things into groups.
 - The scientists used a classification that grouped insects by whether they had wings or not.
- Cocoon – The silky covering with which a caterpillar or other insect larva encloses itself during its transition to an adult state.
 - Cocoons protect insects during their development.

- Entomology - The branch of zoology that deals with the study of insects.
 - Casey knew as she captured another grasshopper that she wanted to study entomology in college.
- Insect – Any of numerous usually small arthropod animals of the class Insecta, having an adult stage characterized by three pairs of legs and a body segmented into head, thorax, and abdomen and usually having two pairs of wings.
 - Many people wrongly believe spiders are insects.
- Thorax – The second or middle region of the body of an arthropod, between the head and the abdomen, in insects bearing the true legs and wings.
 - An insects' legs attach to the thorax, or middle part of its body.