



**Baltimore Woods
Nature Center**
Nature in your hands

Build-a-Bug

Have you ever looked at an insect up close? Every insect that you have ever seen, from grasshoppers to dragonflies have the same basic parts. These are a **head**, **legs** and a **body**, and **wings**. In this activity, we'll look at all of these parts, and you can choose the ones you like most to put together a bug of your own!

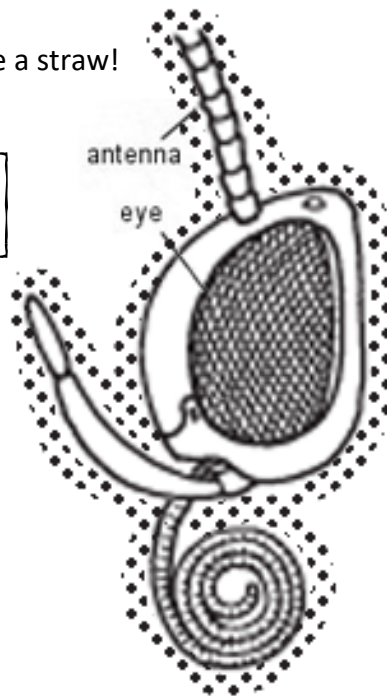
First we'll look at insect **heads**- there are a couple of different options, but each has two things: **eyes** and **antennae**. See what the eyes and antennae look like on each of these three bug heads!

The head of an **ant** has a mouth designed for chewing its food:

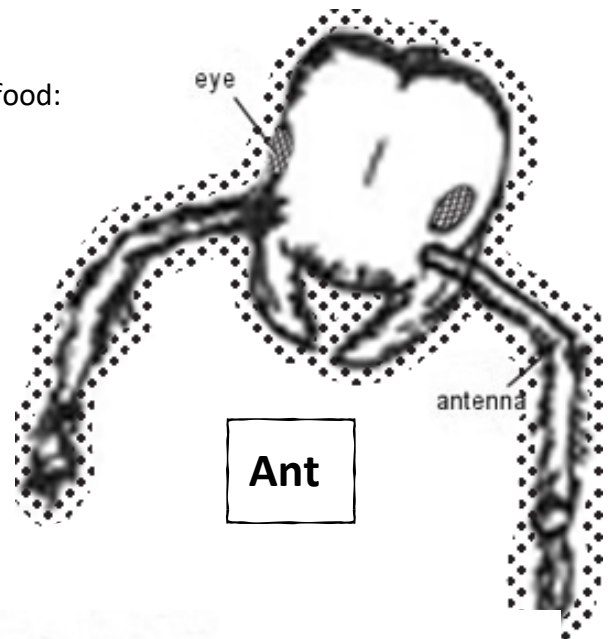
A **butterfly's** head has a long mouth for slurping up nectar from flowers:

The mouth uncoils and works like a straw!

Butterfly

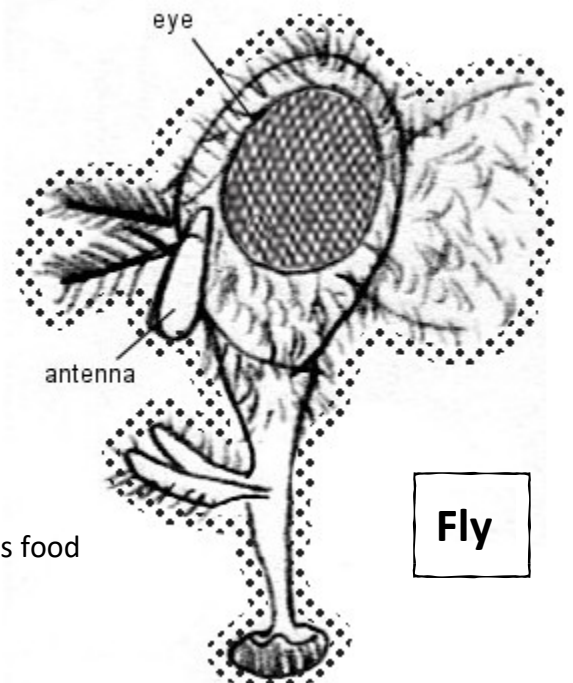


Ant



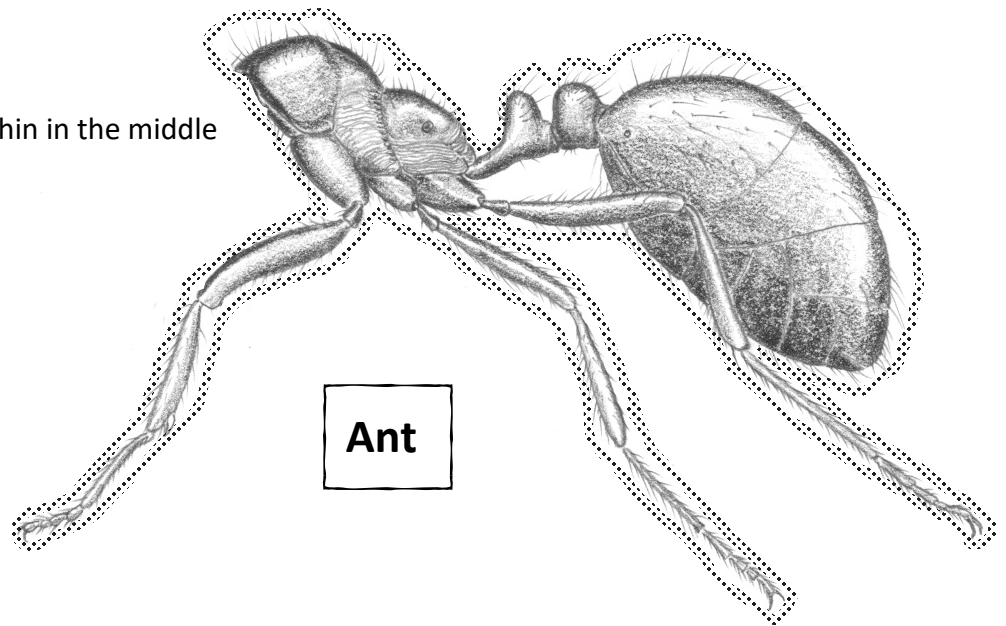
Fly

A **fly's** head has a long mouth that sponges up the fly's food like the sponge in your kitchen!

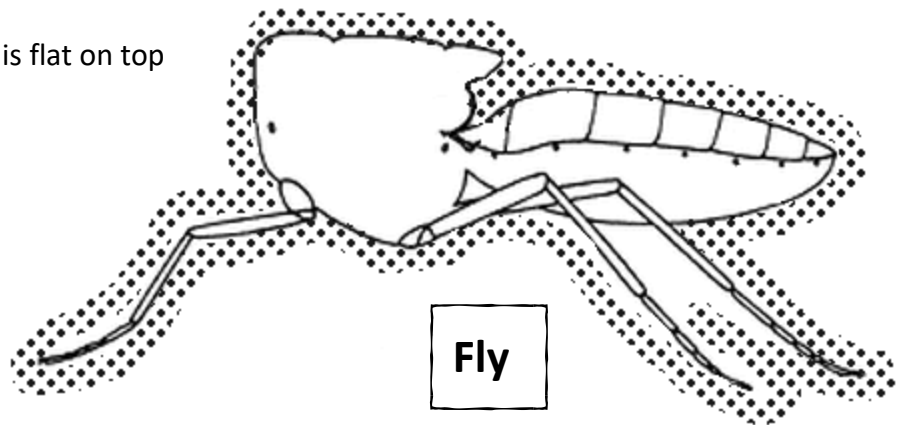


Now let's look at insect **bodies and legs**: all of them have legs coming off of the front part– it may look like three legs, but that is just on one side– all bugs actually have six legs!

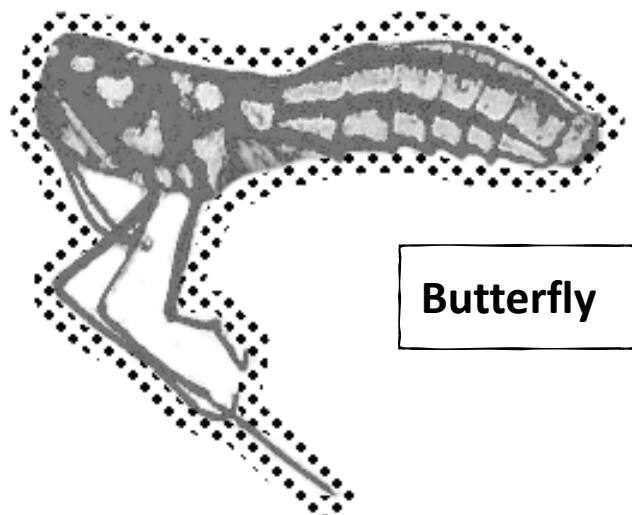
The body of an **ant** gets very thin in the middle



The front part of a **fly's body** is flat on top



The back part of a **butterfly's** body is long and thick– it looks almost like the caterpillar it used to be!

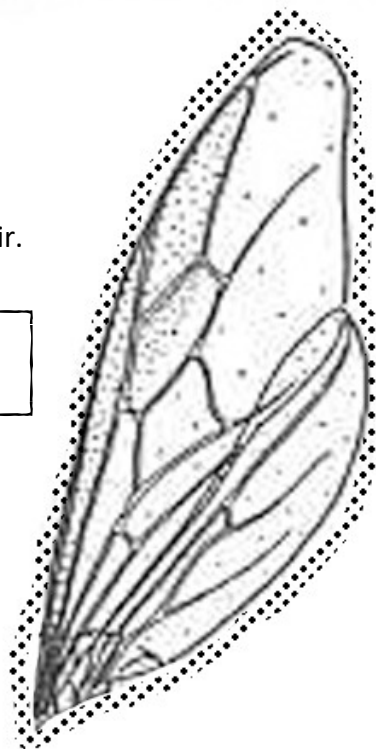


Now let's look at insect **wings**: lots of insects have wings coming off of the front part of their bodies- it may look like two, but most insects, besides flies, have four wings!

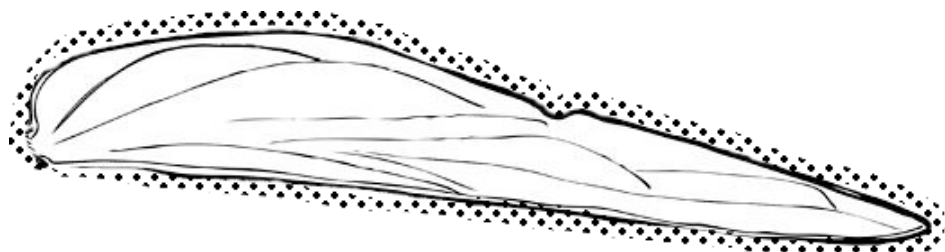
Many ants don't have wings at all, but some do!

The front pair of ant wings is much larger than the back pair.

Ant



Fly

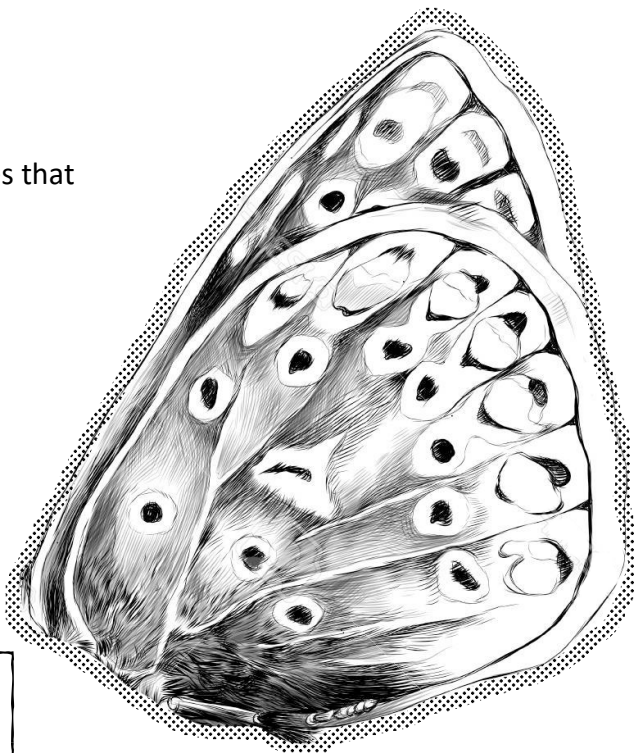


A **fly** has only two wings

(you can see one from this side)

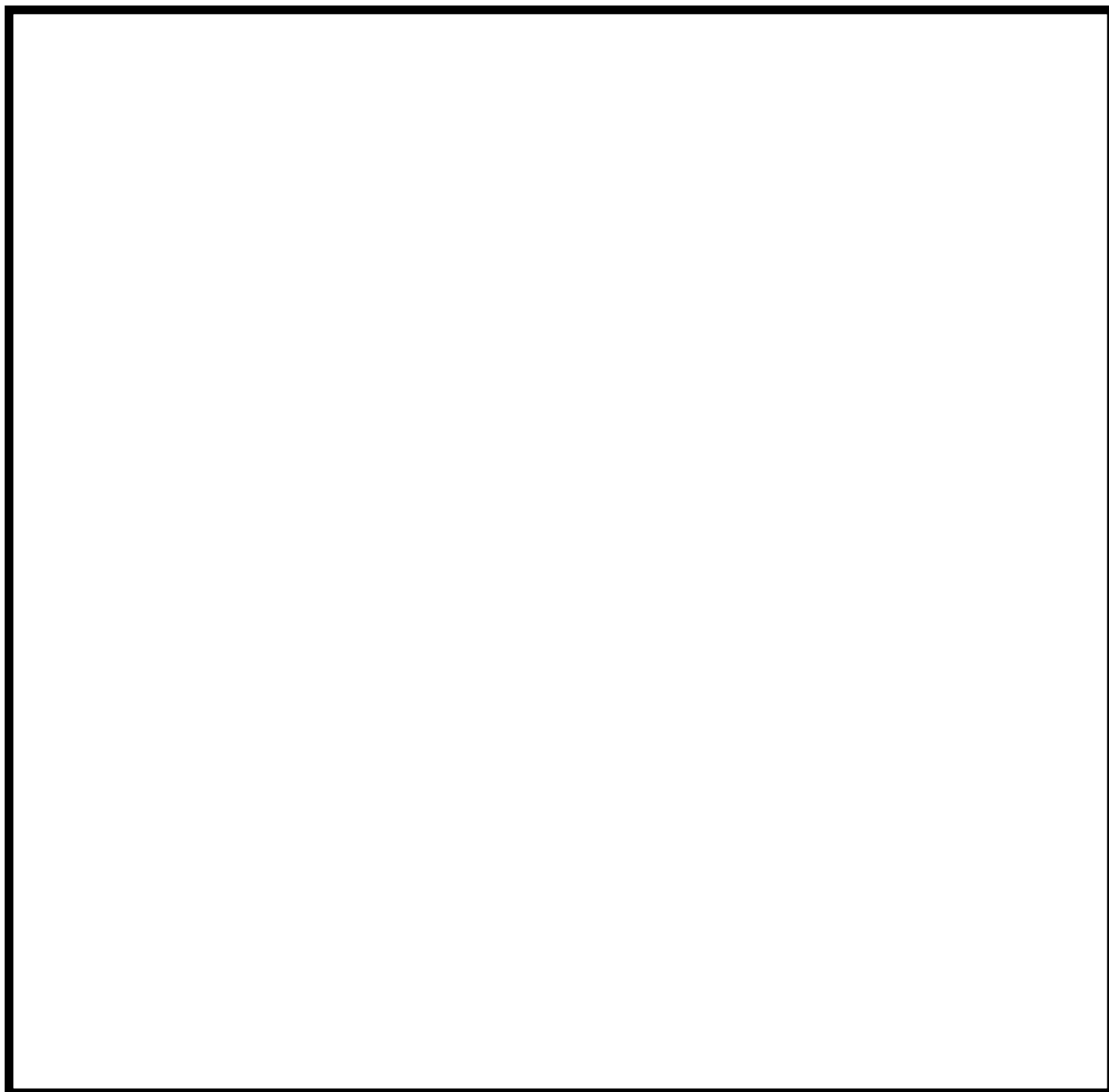
A **butterfly's** wings are covered in tiny scales that make them look fuzzy!

Butterfly



Now we've looked at all of the different parts of an insect! I hope that you saw some you liked because now it's time to make your own insect! You can cut out your favorite **wings, legs and body**, and **head** from the previous pages (cutting on the dotted line around the picture)..

OR you can use the pictures for inspiration and draw your own insect in the box below!



Great work! Feel free to color your insect, draw it a habitat or background, or give it a name!

If you want to share your insect we'd love it if you sent it to us at connect@baltimorewoods.org.