



## Nature Journal Prompt

**Topic:** Invertebrates - animals without backbones

**Things to notice:** If it is soft bodied or hard. Worms and slugs are soft bodied. Insects and spiders are hard. If it has a shell like a snail. If it has limbs (legs) or not. How many limbs does it have? How many body segments it has. If it has eyes. How many eyes does it have? Watch how it moves: crawl, walk, jump, fly? Does it make a sound? What color is it? How big is it? Where did you find it? What was it doing? Did you see it eating? What are its mouth parts like? If it has wings how many are there and what shape, size, and color are they.

**Questions to ask:** Do you normally find it in cool dark places or warm bright places? How does it keep from being eaten? For example, is it hard to see or move fast? What do you think it eats? Does it leave any tracks or traces of itself such as slime or a web? What stage of its life is it in? For example, a caterpillar is the larval stage of a butterfly or moth.

**Note:** If you find a caterpillar please don't move it. Many butterfly caterpillars can only eat a few kinds of plants and if you move it it will starve.

### For parents and teachers:

[National Geographic Invertebrate pictures and facts](#)

[Kiddle invertebrate facts for kids](#)

If your child is very interested butterflies think about getting one of the laminated foldable field guides of butterflies that live in your region. They are easier to carry around with you than a book.

If you like gardens and pollinators, think about being part of a citizen science project. Such as: [The Great Sunflower project](#).