Identifying arthropods using a key

Outstanding Science Year 6 - Living things and their habitats - OS6A005

National Curriculum Statutory Requirements
6A1 - describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals; **6A2** - give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics

Learning Objective
I can identify familiar arthropods using a classification key.

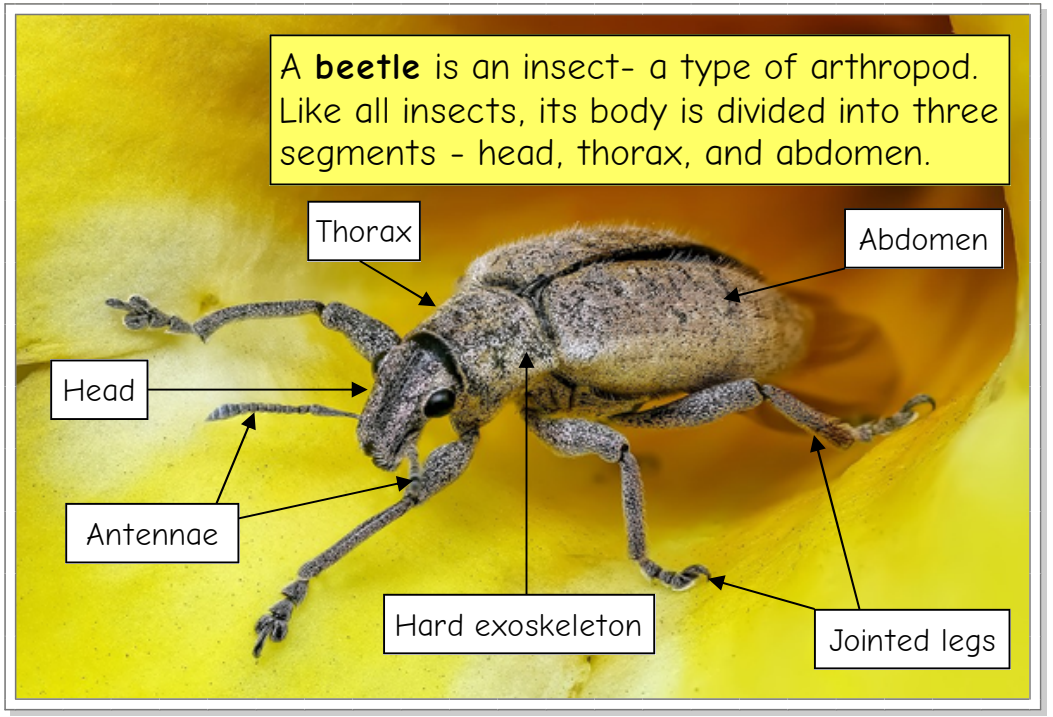
Me: Teacher:

Arthropods are a large group of animals. The **phylum** (classification group) that they belong to is called **arthropoda**. Arthropods include all **insects**, **arachnids** (spiders and mites), **crustaceans** (crabs, shrimp and lobsters), and **myriapods** (millipedes and centipedes). Although there are a wide variety of arthropods, they all some body features in common:

A segmented body
Arthropods have bodies made up from a varying number of segments.

A hard exoskeleton
Arthropods have skeletons on the outside of their bodies. Because of this, they can be classified as **invertebrates**. Arthropods need to **moult** (shed their exoskeletons) as they mature, because their skeleton does not grow.

Jointed legs
The word 'arthropod' comes from the Ancient Greek words for 'jointed leg'.



Activity
Cut out the pictures of arthropods on the next page. Use the classification key to identify them. Paste them in the correct position on the classification key.

Discussion
Which arthropods were the most difficult to group? Why?
Which arthropods have you seen before? Which have you not seen before?
Why do arthropods have similar features (exoskeleton, segmented body, jointed legs)? Is this a coincidence?

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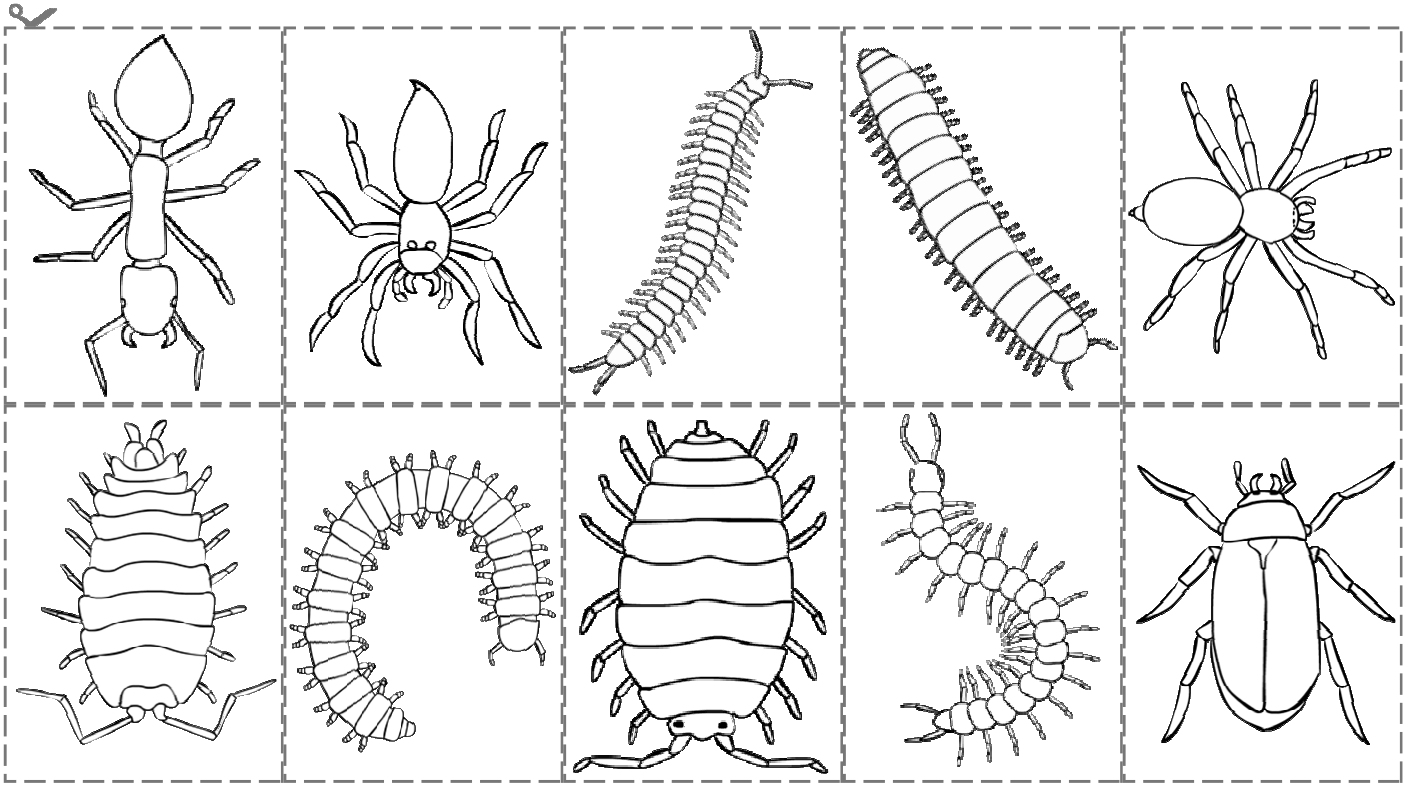
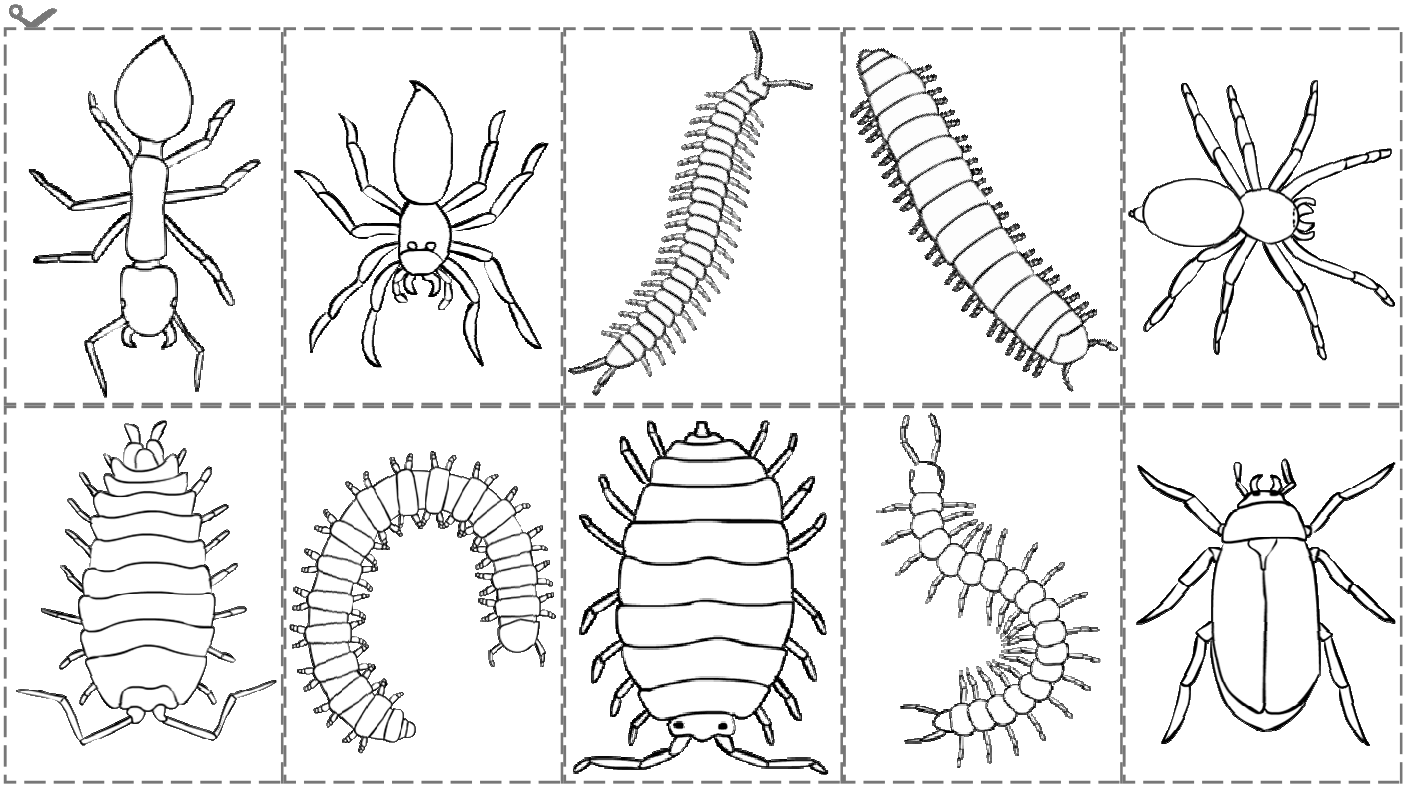


Teacher's note - there are enough pictures on this page for 2 children, to save on printing and photocopying resources.



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Classifying arthropods using a key