ICKY INSECTS

Lexile Range: 447-470
# Icky Insects – Lexile Range: 447–470

## Table of Contents

1. What is an Insect?  
   “Glossary – What is an Insect?”  
2. Icky Insects  
   “Glossary – Icky Insects”  
3. Let’s Talk About Insects (slideshow)  
   “Glossary – Let’s Talk About Insects”  
4. “Ants, Ants, and More Ants” by Roberts, Brian  
   “Glossary – Ants, Ants, and More Ants”  
5. “Are You An Ant?” by Allen, Judy; Humphries, Tudor  
   “Glossary – Are You An Ant?”  

## Bibliography

51
Online Materials

What is an Insect?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUPXkWqC1aA

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## Glossary – What is an Insect?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Student-Friendly Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wings</td>
<td>A part of an animal's body that is used for flying. Some insects have wings that help them fly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feelers</td>
<td>Insects have feelers, also called antennae, to smell with instead of a nose. Ants have 2 feelers in their heads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ladybird</td>
<td>A type of small flying insect that has a round red back with dark spots, also called a ladybug. The ladybird flew around and landed on leaf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>legs</td>
<td>One of the long body parts that are used especially for standing, walking, and running. All insects have legs, some have more than others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lovely</td>
<td>Something that is very good. She had a lovely and great time at the party.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Online Materials

Icky Insects
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYawa4piO4k

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## Glossary – Icky Insects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>thorax</td>
<td>The middle of the three main body parts of an insect&lt;br&gt;An insect’s six legs grow from the thorax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abdomen</td>
<td>The back portion of an insect’s body&lt;br&gt;An insect has three body parts: a head, thorax, and abdomen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exoskeleton</td>
<td>A hard shell on the covering an insect’s body&lt;br&gt;Insects are protected by their hard exoskeleton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hatch</td>
<td>To be born out of an egg&lt;br&gt;<strong>Insects hatch from an egg.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arthropods</td>
<td>An animal with an exoskeleton and segmented body&lt;br&gt;Insects can also be called arthropods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>divided</td>
<td>To separate into two or more pieces&lt;br&gt;An insect’s body is divided into three parts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>distinctly</td>
<td>Clearly seen and different from each other&lt;br&gt;An insect’s three body parts are distinctly divided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Online Materials

Let's Talk About Insects (slideshow)
http://extension.illinois.edu/insects/01.html

To access this online content, open your Internet browser and follow the web address above, or log in to your online CoursePack and select the web link.
# Glossary – Let’s Talk About Insects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>species</td>
<td>A group of animals or plants that are similar. There are approximately 8,000 species of ants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exoskeleton</td>
<td>A hard covering on the outside of the body. Insects have an outside skeleton, or exoskeleton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mouth</td>
<td>The part of the body used for eating. I stuffed all of my food in my mouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thorax</td>
<td>The middle section of an insect’s body. The thorax is what is connected to an insect’s wings and legs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abdomen</td>
<td>The rear part of an insect's body. Many of the insect's important organs are in its abdomen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>composite</td>
<td>Made of different parts. Some insects have composite eyes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ants, Ants, and More Ants

A Reading A-Z Level G Leveled Book • Word Count: 168

Visit www.readinga-z.com for thousands of books and materials.
Table of Contents

Ants Everywhere! .................. 4
What Do Ants Look Like? ........ 5
Groups of Ants ................... 9
Watching Ants ................. 12

Ants Everywhere!
You can find ants in lots of different places.
You can find them in the grass and dirt in your yard.
You can find them on trees and in your home.

Ants swarm food left on the floor.
Ants can be tiny or large. Some big ants are as large as a paper clip. Ants are very strong for their size.

Some ants have large, strong jaws. They use their jaws to cut food and to fight.
Some worker ants take care of the eggs and baby ants. Some worker ants get food. Soldier ants guard the nest.

Watching Ants
Ants are amazing animals. You can have fun watching ants at work.
### Glossary – Ants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>swarm</td>
<td>A large number grouped together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hundreds of ants swarmed the food dropped on the floor.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antennae</td>
<td>Moveable organs on the top of an insect’s head that help communicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ants have a pair of antennae on their head.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thorax</td>
<td>The part of the body of a mammal between the neck and the abdomen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>The thorax connects the top and middle part of the ant’s body.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jaw</td>
<td>The parts making up the walls of the mouth and serving to open and close it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ants have very strong jaws to bite their food.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Backyard Books

Are you an Ant?

Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries

KINGFISHER
BOSTON
Are you an ant?

If you are,
your mother is a queen.

One hot summer day she went
on a mating flight with
thousands of others so that
she would be able to lay eggs.
Afterward she flew down to the ground. She knew she didn’t need her wings anymore, so she took them off.

Then she dug herself a small room underground.
Now that she is in her room, 
the queen begins to lay eggs. 
You are in one of them. 
Hatch out of the egg 
as soon as you can.
You don’t look like an ant yet.
You’re a larva, and you’re hungry.
There are eggs all over the place.
Eat some. It’s all right; they won’t mind.
They’re only eggs.
Soon you must change into a pupa.
A pupa is a little like an egg, only bigger. When you’re ready, breck out!

You look almost like an ant—but you’re white and soft.
Don’t worry.
Slowly your skin will become hard
and black, and you’ll look perfect.
There are a lot of others like you.
You are one of a big family.
You are a worker!
Work hard to build a nest. Dig storage rooms and nurseries and bedrooms and corridors.
It’s all right; you don’t have to work alone. The others will work with you.

You don’t have any voices, but you can talk to each other by touching feelers.
Don’t eat any more eggs.
Go out and hunt for food.
Seeds are nice. So are bugs and wood lice. Springtails are delicious, but hard to catch because they jump.
Bite your prey and spray it with acid from your tail. Actually, you’re not a very good hunter. Look for bugs that have been stepped on. They’re easy.
You may think there’s easy food in kitchens, but be careful. There are crumbs and grains of sugar, which are nice. There are also people, and they’re not so nice.
People don’t like you in their homes. They may squash you. They may poison you. Or they may sweep the floor so you can’t find anything to eat.
The best food is honeydew.
It comes from aphids.
Find a plant with aphids feeding on it.

March up the stem with the other workers.
Now stroke an aphid until it gives you a drop of honeydew.
It’s a little like milking a cow, but you wouldn’t know about that—you’re an ant.

Take care of your aphids.

Ladybugs eat aphids—so look for ladybug eggs and throw them away.
You must take food back to the nest.

Some you can lift.
Some you can drag.

Some you can put in your second stomach. It’s called a crop, and it’s very useful for carrying spare food home.
Back at the nest,
there’s plenty to do.
Feed the queen—
who is still laying eggs.
Feed the larvae—
who are still hatching.
Take care of the eggs and larvae.
When it’s cold, carry them deep into the nest, where it’s cozy.
When the sun warms the ground, carry them up near the surface.
Oh—and don’t forget to take out the garbage.
Life isn’t all food and work.
There’s danger, too.
Birds and lizards and toads
think you are good
to eat.
Some birds pick you up and push you under their wings.
Why? Because the acid in your body kills the ticks that bite them and make them itch.
This is called anting.

Anting is nice for birds. Anting is not nice for ants.
However, if your family looks a little like this or this
or this

you are not an ant.

You are...
...a human child.

You don’t have to take care of eggs and larvae.
You don’t have to milk aphids.

You probably don’t have to march in a line with a lot of others.
Don’t worry—you can do many things that ants can’t do.
Best of all, no bird is ever, ever, EVER going to pick you up in its beak and stuff you under its wing.
Did You Know...

...the ants in this book are black garden ants, but there are about 10,000 different kinds of ants living all over the world.

...some grow their own food—South American leafcutter ants carry pieces of leaves home and chew them up to make compost for their fungus gardens.
...some are hunters—thousands of African driver ants march in long columns, eating any animal in their path if it doesn’t escape in time!

...some collect seeds and fruits and honeydew—these ants leave a scent trail to guide their worker sisters to the food.

...some ants can sting, so be careful!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</table>
| mating  | To join or fit together to become a mate  
  *The ant went on a mating flight so she would be able to lay eggs.* |
| larva   | A young, wormlike form that hatched from the egg of many insects  
  *A caterpillar is the larva of a butterfly.* |
| pupa    | A stage of an insect that occurs between the larva and the adult and is usually enclosed in a cocoon or case  
  *The ant larva turns into a pupa so it can grow into an adult.* |
| feelers | Insects have feelers, also called antennae, to smell with instead of a nose  
  *The butterfly used its feelers to smell the flowers.* |
| prey    | An animal hunted or killed by another animal for food  
  *Fire ants inject poison into their prey.* |
Bibliography


The purpose of this text set is to build student knowledge and vocabulary through a set of readings on the same topic. For more information please go to SAP’s Text Sets homepage: http://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=1112&sort=name

and Research base on building knowledge: http://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Research%20Supporting%20Shift%20Building%20Knowledge%5b1%5d.pdf

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