



Interesting  
Facts About  
Insects

# What is the difference between a butterfly and a moth?

The easiest ways to tell the difference between a butterfly and a moth:

- Moths usually hold their wings flat while resting and butterflies usually hold their wings upright.
- Moths usually have thread like or feathered antennae without a club at the end.
- Moths are usually marked with dull colours and butterflies are usually marked with brighter colours.
- Moths usually fly at night and butterflies fly during the day. However, there are some moths that are active during the day.



# Beetles

Like all insects, beetles have a hard exoskeleton that protects their body.

Beetles have three body parts including the head, the thorax and the abdomen.

Beetles have six segmented legs which are attached to the thorax.

Beetles have a pair of flying wings which are hidden under a hard outer wing which protects the beetle's body.

Beetles have two antennae which are used for 'smelling' and 'feeling' their environment.

Beetles have two mandibles, like pincers, near their mouth which help them grasp and manage food.

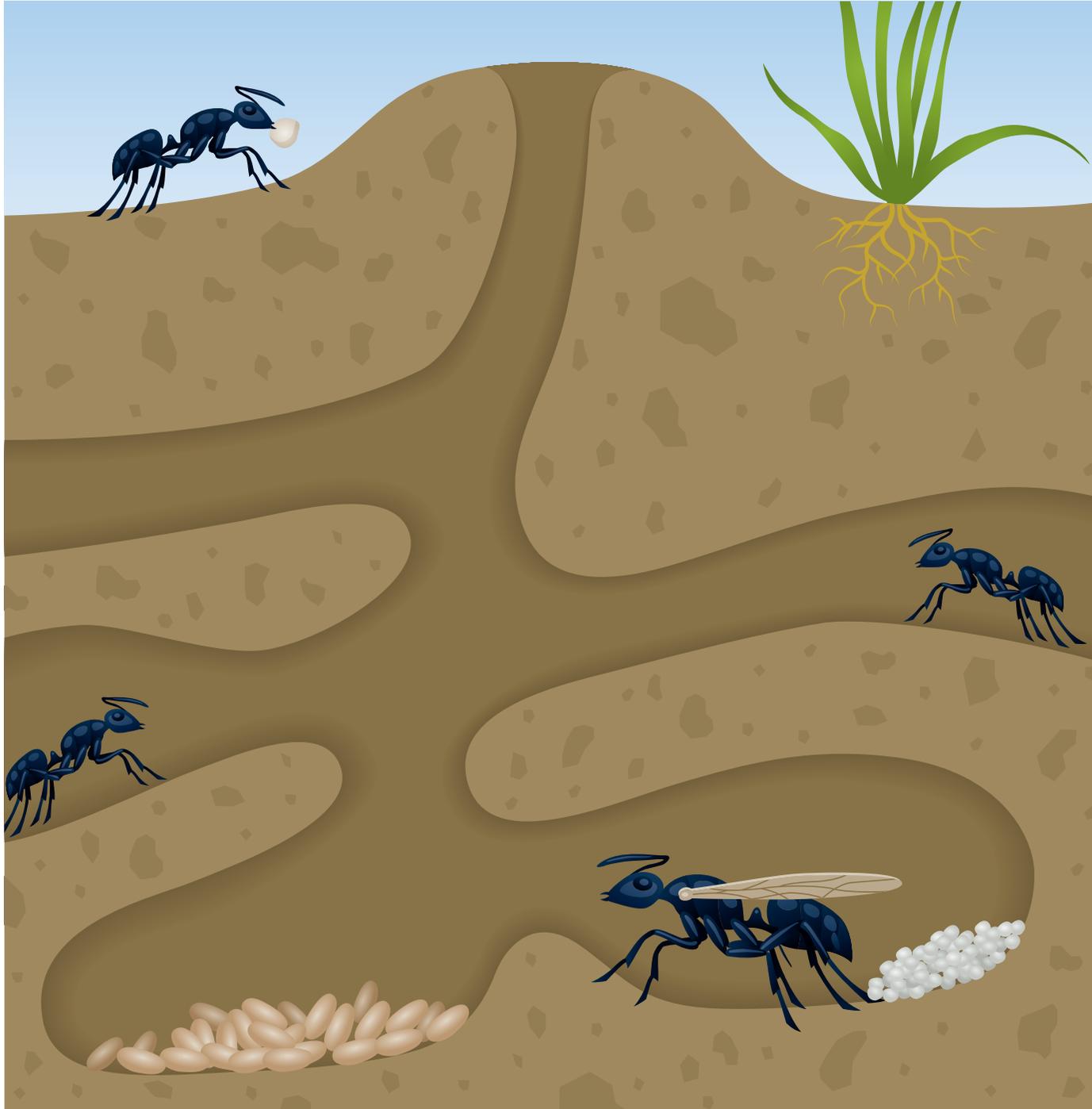
Most beetles eat plant matter but some, like the lady beetle, are carnivorous. A lady beetle will prey on other small insects, like aphids.



Ants work together in colonies where they each have jobs to do.



Many ants live together as a colony, living in a nest they build in the soil. The nest has many chambers connected by tunnels.



The chambers in an ant nest are used for different purposes:

- The queen uses one for laying her eggs
- Some chambers are used as nurseries for the growing young
- Some chambers are used to store food.

What is the social structure of the ant colony?

An ant colony usually has one queen. The remainder of the colony is made up of worker ants and a few winged male ants who leave the nest to mate. Soldier ants are large worker ants who defend the nest.

What does the Queen ant do?

- mates with a male ant
- establishes a new colony site
- lays eggs

What do the worker ants do?

- care for the queen
- care for the young
- collect food
- build and repair the nest

What do soldier ants do?

- defend the nest and fight off attackers

What do male ants do?

- fly out of the colony, mate with a new queen then they die.

# Bee or Wasp?



Bee hive



a bee



a wasp



Wasps nest

# Flies



Have you ever tried to swat a fly? They can be hard to catch. Have you ever wondered how they escape so easily? How do they manage to see you coming every time!

The answer is in the make up of their eyes. They are compound eyes. This means that their eye is made up of hundreds of tiny lenses that help the fly detect movement from all directions around it.

No wonder they escape so easily!

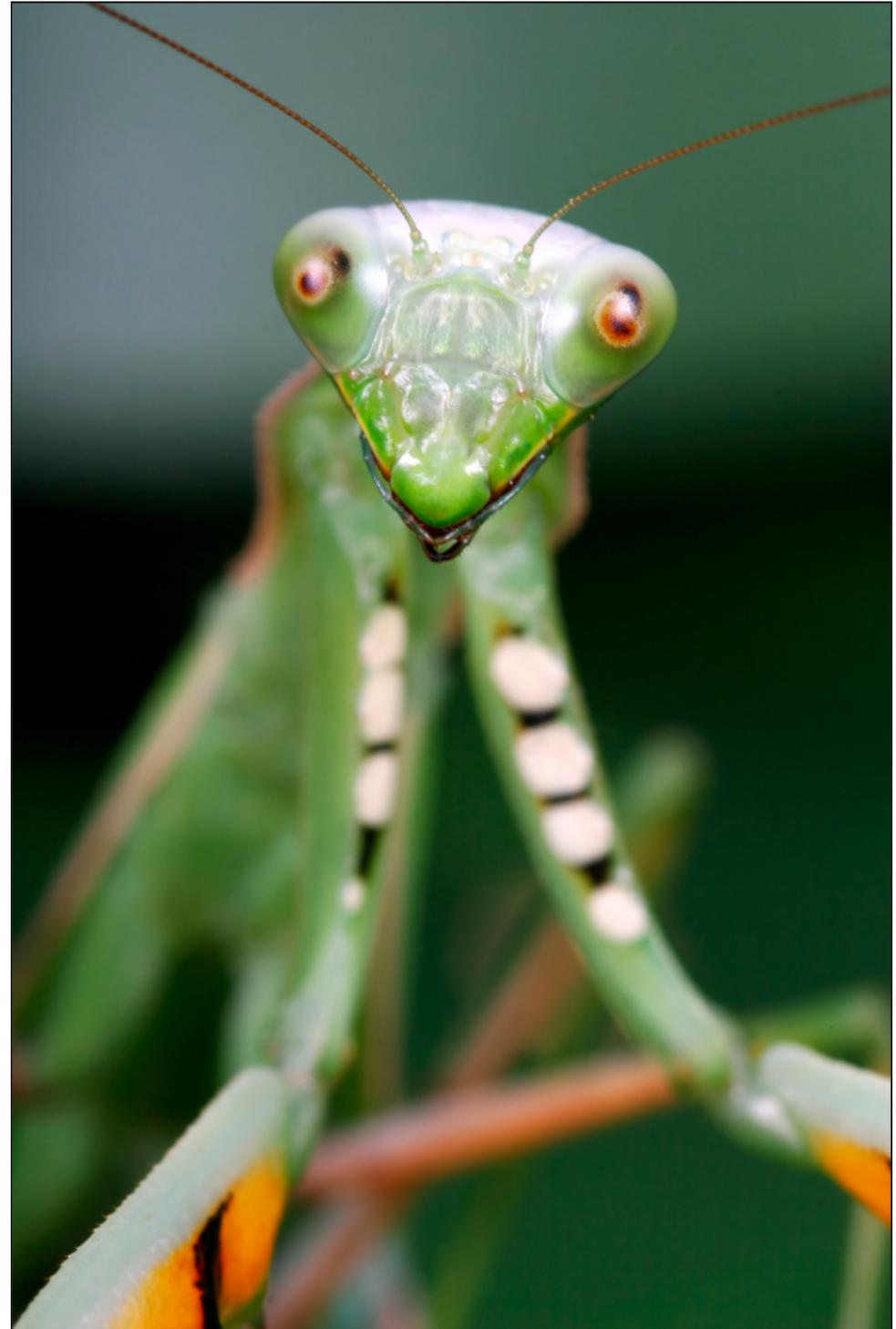


# Mantids



There are about 2000 species of insects that belong to the mantis group. They are generally known as praying mantis.

They are carnivorous and eat crickets and grasshoppers which are smaller than them.



# Grasshoppers, Locusts and Crickets



These creatures all belong to the same family. Crickets and grasshoppers are known for their ability to make loud noises by rubbing their legs against their wings.

Locusts tend to swarm periodically, when the climatic conditions are right. They can destroy a field of crops in a matter of hours before moving on to the next field. When locusts move in a large group they are called a plague of locusts.

