

Vocabulary for **Insect Explorers** guided program

These are words that are commonly used in the guided program/workshop. Following the definition for most of the vocabulary words, we have included a sentence in *italics* that incorporates the word.

**Abdomen –** The end segment of the body in arthropods.

*All insects have an abdomen, the end part of its body.*

**Antenna –** A thin movable sensory organ found in pairs on the heads of insects and crustaceans.

*Insects use their antenna to learn about their surroundings.*

**Arthropod –** An invertebrate animal that has jointed limbs, a segmented body, and an exoskeleton made of chitin, e.g. an insect, arachnid, centipede, or crustacean.

*An insect is one kind of arthropod.*

**Characteristics** - Features that can be used to identify or distinguish between different things.

*The number of legs is one characteristic used to identify an insect.*

**Classification** – A way of arranging things into groups.

*The scientists used a classification that grouped insects by whether they had wings or not.*

**Cocoon –** The silky covering with which a caterpillar or other insect larva encloses itself during its transition to an adult state.

*Cocoons protect insects during their development.*

**Entomology -** The branch of zoology that deals with the study of insects.

*Casey knew as she captured another grasshopper that she wanted to study entomology in college.*

**Insect –** Any of numerous usually small arthropod animals of the class Insecta, having an adult stage characterized by three pairs of legs and a body segmented into head, thorax, and abdomen and usually having two pairs of wings.

*Many people wrongly believe spiders are insects.*

**Thorax –** The second or middle region of the body of an arthropod, between the head and the abdomen, in insects bearing the true legs and wings.

*An insects’ legs attach to the thorax, or middle part of its body.*