

## About Insects

Read about insects and then answer the questions below.

Insects have their skeletons on the outside, with their soft parts inside. That makes it hard for them to grow. Every time they want to become bigger, they have to break out of their skin and swell up to their new size before their new skin hardens. This is called molting. This means that once the insect is at its final size (adult form), it can't grow any bigger!

Insects have been around for millions of years. Scientists think that the first insects appeared 400 million years ago. Insects didn't start to fly until 360 million years ago. Some insects can live for many years. The queen termite has been known to live 50 years. Most bugs live less than a year and are only around for a season.

Insects are very important to the environment. One of the jobs that insects do is to pollinate flowering plants. Insects are also food for animals that eat insects. Last, insects help to break down plants and dead animals by eating them.

(From: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/general-facts-about-insects-and-bugs/> and <https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/insects/what-are-insects/>)

1. What is an insect's body like? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How long have insects been around? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How long do insects live normally? What insect lives the longest? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why are insects important to the environment? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Summarize what you read about insects. \_\_\_\_\_

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