



Name: _____

Date: _____

Insects - Lesson 1

six
continent
earth

animals
thousands
hatch

temperature
benefit
breathe

invertebrates
metamorphosis
exoskeleton

ground
hibernating

Insects are almost everywhere! They crawl on leaves, fly through the air, and even dig in the _____.

They live on every _____, including Antarctica, although they prefer to live in warm areas.

Some common insects are bees, ants, and butterflies, but insects are the largest group of animals on _____ . Almost a million species have been identified so far, and scientists estimate that there could be millions more that we haven't found yet.

Insects are _____, meaning they don't have backbones. In fact, they don't have any bones at all. Instead, they have a hard outer shell called an _____ that gives them their shape.

Insects have three main sections of their bodies: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. They have _____ legs that are connected to the thorax. Most insects also have wings and antennae.

Insects _____ air, but they don't have lungs. Instead, they have a system of tubes and sacs through which air may pass or be pumped. This system can only carry air so far into the insect's body, which limits how large insects can grow. They cannot get enough air into their bodies to be as big as other _____.

Insects have a special kind of eyes called compound eyes. These eyes are made up of hundreds or even _____ of tiny light-sensitive units. These eyes give them excellent peripheral vision and can

detect movement very well.

Insects are cold-blooded, so they can't control their body _____ like humans. This is why they like warm climates and why you don't see as many insects during the winter. Most insects sleep until it becomes warm again to survive the winter, much like _____ bears.

Insects _____ from eggs and then go through an amazing change called _____. First, they are larvae, which are little worms or caterpillars. Next, they spin a cocoon around themselves with silk. Inside the cocoon, they undergo a tremendous change and exit as adult insects. This stage of change is called the pupa.

Insects are incredibly important to life on earth. Scientists estimate there are 200 million insects for every human on earth. Some insects are a _____ to humans, while others are pests. But no matter their size, shape, or color, insects make a big difference for such small creatures.