

Investigating Insects

Vocabulary	
Thorax	Insects have three main body parts; a head, thorax and abdomen. The thorax is in the middle and has six legs attached to it. If the insect has wings, the wings will be attached to the thorax.
Abdomen	The abdomen is the longest insect body part. It holds the heart, digestion and reproductive organs.
Antennae	Antennae are those two feeler appendages on an insect's head that are used for sensing, smelling and communication. Singular spelling is antenna.
Compound Eyes	Inside insect compound eyes are thousands of smaller eyes. Insects don't see images as clearly as we do but their compound eyes are very good at seeing movement.
Mouthparts	Are the sucking, cutting, crushing or chewing parts that help insects eat vegetation or animals like other insects.
Exoskeleton	Unlike people, insects (like other invertebrates) have their skeletons, called exoskeletons, on the outside. Exoskeletons are strong and help protect the soft body on the inside.
Specialist	Animals that are specialists depend on very specific habitats and diets. For example, the Propertius Duskywing caterpillar only eats Garry Oak leaves. Koala bears only eat eucalyptus leaves.
Generalist	Generalists are animals that usually have a more varied diet and can survive in different kinds of habitats. For example, raccoons can eat many different foods, such as eggs, fruit and insects. This allows them to live in forests and in cities. Two very different habitats.

Entomology	Entomology is the study of insects.
Specimen	A specimen is a single plant or animal in a museum collection. For example, there are at least 244,00 specimens in the entomology collection at the Royal BC Museum.
Adaptation	Something a plant or animal has or does to survive
Habitat	The place where a plant or animal naturally lives and grows.