

Arthropods make up 75% of invertebrates. Arthropods have several qualities in common: jointed legs, bodies divided into sections, and an exoskeleton, or shell. Some of the arthropods you might know are lobsters, millipedes, spiders, ants, and butterflies.



Key vocabulary

exoskeleton

A bony structure on the outside of an animal, such as the shell of a lobster or a crab.

molt

When a bird or animal molts, its outer covering of fur, feathers, or skin comes off so that a new covering can grow.

vertebrate

An animal that has a backbone.

invertebrate

An animal without a backbone.

Related articles



Vertebrates

Science is all about classification, and the animal kingdom has two basic groups: those without backbones, invertebrates, and those with backbones, vertebrates.



Invertebrates

Some animals, like humans, have backbones, but many others do not. In fact, invertebrates make up 97% of all living things!



Animal Adaptations

Just like plants, animals have to adapt to survive in their environments. And some of those adaptations, like zebra and tiger stripes, are pretty cool, too.



Food Webs

Did you know that organisms can be part of more than one food chain? It can get pretty complicated. That is where the food web comes in handy.



Food Chains

How does a snail get its food? How about a tree? Find out all about the food chain, and you will know!