

So, what is an **insect**?
Do you know?

An animal is an insect if . . .

- it has six legs;
- its body is divided in three parts: the head, thorax, and abdomen;
- it does not have a backbone (it's an invertebrate).



In addition, all insects . . .

- have a hard outer covering called an exoskeleton;
- breathe air through openings called spiracles along the thorax;
- lay eggs;
- grow through a process called metamorphosis. Babies are called larvae or nymphs. They shed their skin and change form in stages to become adults.

And most insects . . .

- have one pair of antennae;
- have two pairs of wings. The wings and legs are attached to the thorax.

