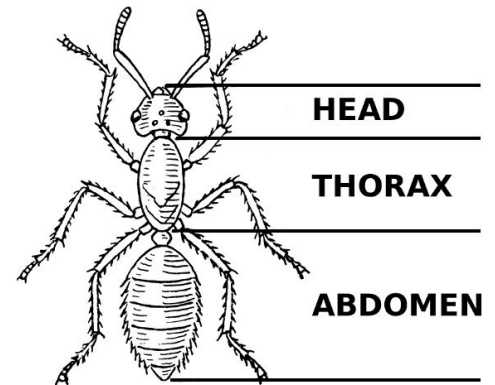


Insect Facts!

- There are three basic parts to an insect - the **head**, **thorax** (the central portion of the body) and **abdomen** (the ball typically seen on many insects). It helps to think of the thorax as being sandwiched in between the head (which is at the top just like your own head) and the abdomen (at the bottom).



- Insects have 6 legs connected to the thorax. Most insects have wings and antennae.
- Almost like the trees at Hoyt Arboretum, insects live in every continent. Hoyt Arboretum has trees from 6 continents (all except Antarctica).
- In the Pacific Northwest, we see lots of spiders, ants and butterflies. Did you know that there are nearly a half million **species** (types) of insects in the world? Scientists speculate that there could be even more insects yet to be discovered.
- Insects are invertebrates or animals that do not have backbones. Insects do not have any bones at all. They have a hard outer shell called an **exoskeleton** that gives them their structure.
- Insects are beneficial to the planet in so many ways! They pollinate food, decompose non-living materials, maintain soil structure and disperse seeds.



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