

Mad about... Bugs



Common centipede ▶

Part of the world: Europe

Habitat: Under stones and bits of wood, in soil

Did you know: They have thirty legs and can crawl backwards almost as quickly as forwards.

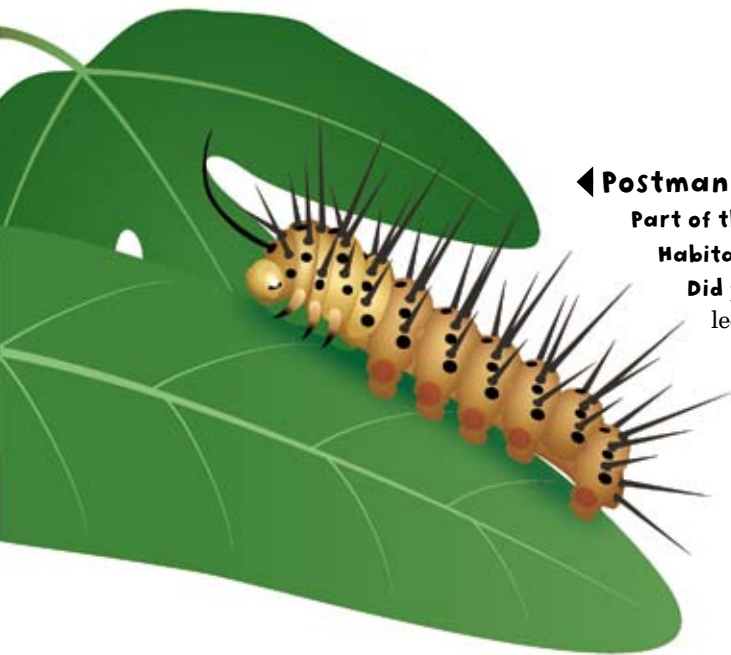


▲ Cinnabar moth

Part of the world: Europe, western Asia

Habitat: Meadows, wasteland and road verges

Did you know: The adult's red and black markings are a warning to predators that it is poisonous. The caterpillar is also striking, with bright orange and black bands.

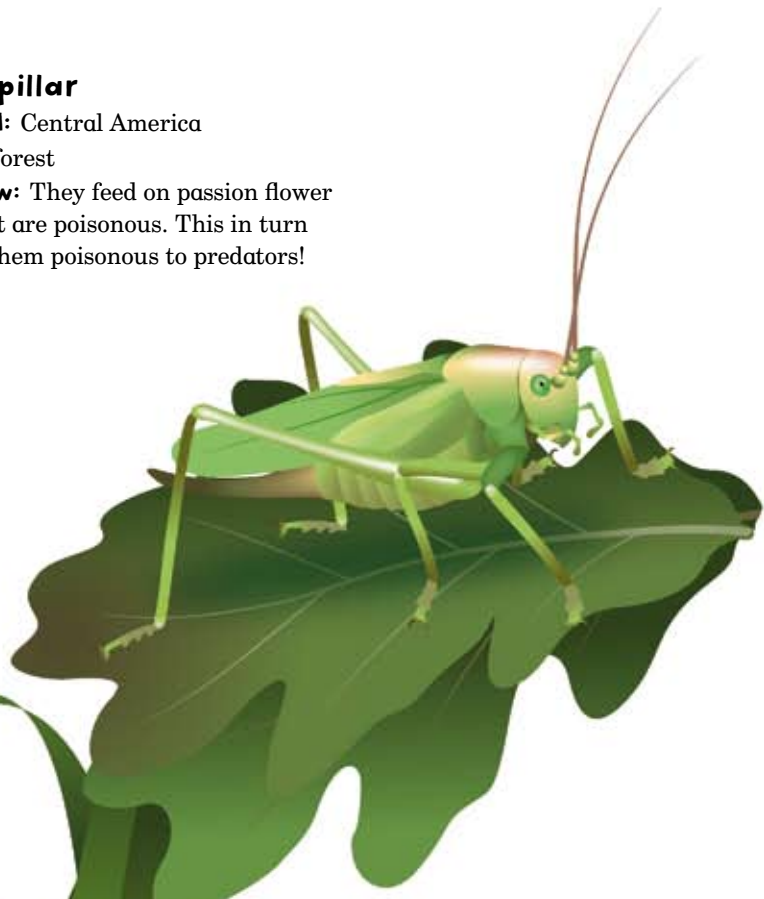


◀ Postman caterpillar

Part of the world: Central America

Habitat: Rainforest

Did you know: They feed on passion flower leaves that are poisonous. This in turn makes them poisonous to predators!



▲ Oak bush cricket (or drumming katydid)

Part of the world: Europe, western Africa and North America

Habitat: Woodland bushes and trees

Did you know: Male crickets call out at night by drumming their back legs on a leaf. Their wings are raised up to make the sound louder.



▲ Damselfly

Part of the world: Europe

Habitat: Woodland and meadows. Always found near fresh water.

Did you know: They are different from dragonflies in that they hold their wings together over their backs when at rest, not outstretched.



▲ Giant wood wasp (or horntail)

Part of the world: Asia, North America, Europe and northern Africa

Habitat: Woodland, especially pine woods

Did you know: They look like wasps but are actually a type of sawfly. They are harmless to humans as they cannot sting.

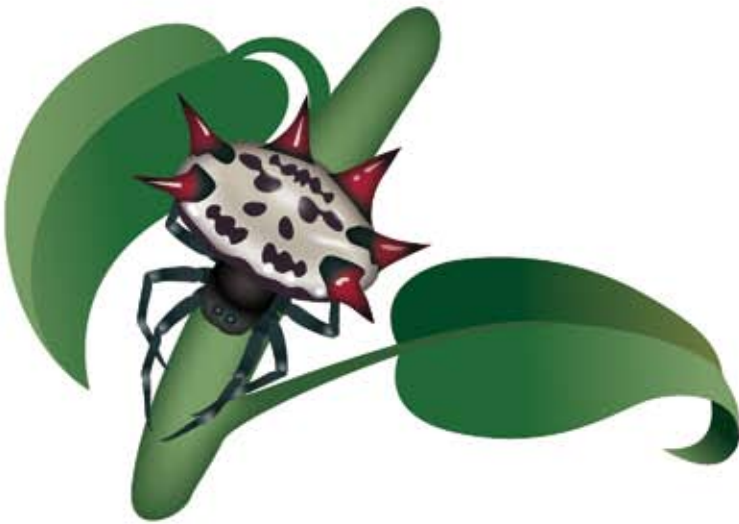


▲ Orchid mantis

Part of the world: South Asia

Habitat: Rainforest, especially in papaya trees or orchids

Did you know: Female mantids often kill and eat the male after mating.



▲ Spiny-bellied orb weaver

Part of the world: North America

Habitat: Swamps and mangrove trees

Did you know: The spiky shape and bright colours of this spider keep predators away.



▲ Curly-haired tarantula

Part of the world: Central America

Habitat: The rainforest floor, near rivers and around the base of large trees

Did you know: They defend themselves by using their back legs to flick tiny, irritating hairs at predators.



▲ Giant tiger centipede

Part of the world: Central and South America

Habitat: Rainforest

Did you know: They are one of the largest centipede species, often growing as long as twenty-six centimetres. They can eat lizards, frogs, birds, mice and even bats!