



GRADE
LEVEL

2-3

AMAZING INSECT FACTS

Name _____ Date _____

Read the Passage.

There are 1½ million different kinds of animals in the world. One million of those different kinds are insects. Every year, scientists discover thousands of new insect species! Ants, bees, fleas, flies, crickets, and moths are insects.

Insects live everywhere. They live on all seven continents. They live high on mountains and in deserts below sea level. They live in fields and forests, high in the sky, and deep in caves.

Insects are strong for their size. A flea can jump about 13 inches. If you were that strong, you could jump the length of more than two football fields. An ant can lift 30 times its body weight. That would be like you lifting a cow over your head!

In some ways insects are a lot like us. They build bridges and apartment buildings (colonies). They raise crops. They have jobs like us too. Insects are carpenters, papermakers, soldiers, guards, nurses, hunters, and thieves.

In other ways insects are not like us. Insects smell with their antennae. Some taste with their feet. They don't have voices, but they do make noises. They don't have lungs. They breathe through holes in their bodies. Some insects are blind, and others have two main and three smaller eyes.

Some people think spiders are insects. They aren't. Insects have six legs. Spiders have eight legs. Insects have three main body parts. Spiders have two. Most insects have wings and antennae. Spiders do not.

Scientists think there are over six billion insects for every square mile of land on the earth. The smallest insects can easily crawl through the eye of a sewing needle. Some types of Asian walking sticks are over a foot long! Insects have been around for 400 million years. They sure are amazing!



brown recluse spider



ant

Answer the questions.

- Insects are found
 - on four of the seven continents
 - on five of the seven continents
 - on six of the seven continents
 - on all seven continents
- Which of the following is **not** a job that people and insects both do?
 - soldier
 - teacher
 - nurse
 - carpenter

3. Name one difference between insects and spiders.

4. True or false? An ant can jump more than 18 inches from a standstill. _____

5. Why do you think scientists continue to discover new species of insects every year?





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Answer Key

1. d
2. b
3. Answers will vary but could include the following:
 - Insects have six legs; spiders have eight legs.
 - Insects have three main body parts; spiders have two main body parts.
 - Most insects have wings and antennae; spiders do not.
4. False. A flea can jump 13 inches from a standstill.
5. Answers will vary but could include the small size of insects, the fact that they are found all over the world, and the fact that there could be more than six billion insects for every square mile of land on the earth.

