

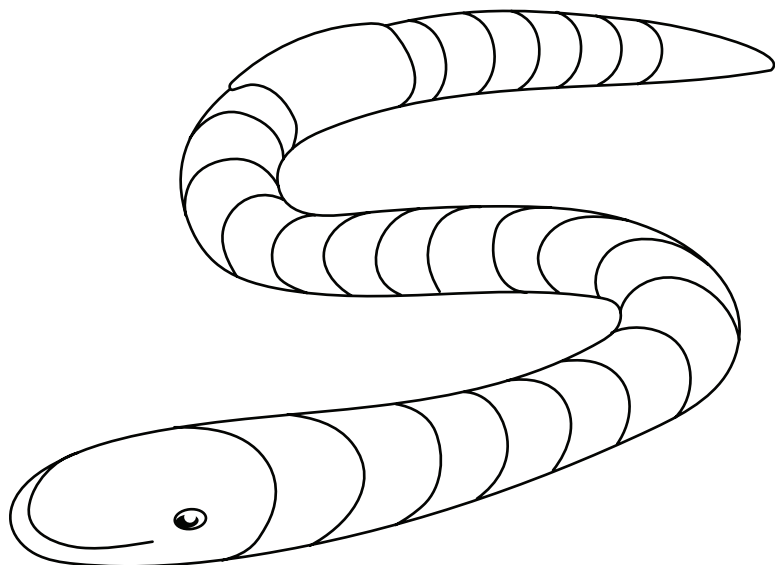
THE MudLife

COLOR & IDENTIFY CRITTERS



Many animals — worms, insects, and crustaceans, for starters — make their homes in mud. In healthy soil, you'll find some type of creepy-crawly critter to examine. Some live deep inside the soil while others find cool shelter under rocks or logs. It is important to know what types of creatures are living in mud to create and protect a healthy environment.

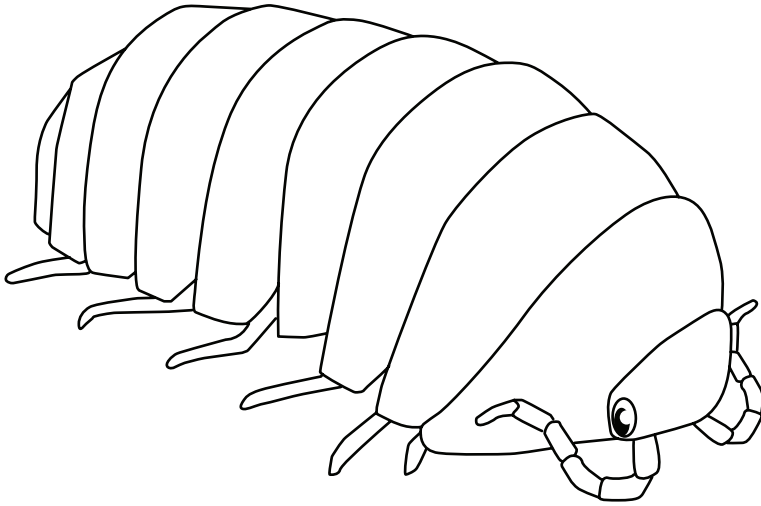
Color and Identify: Use the clues below to identify these mud-loving creatures.
(Need help? Answers are on page 3.)



A

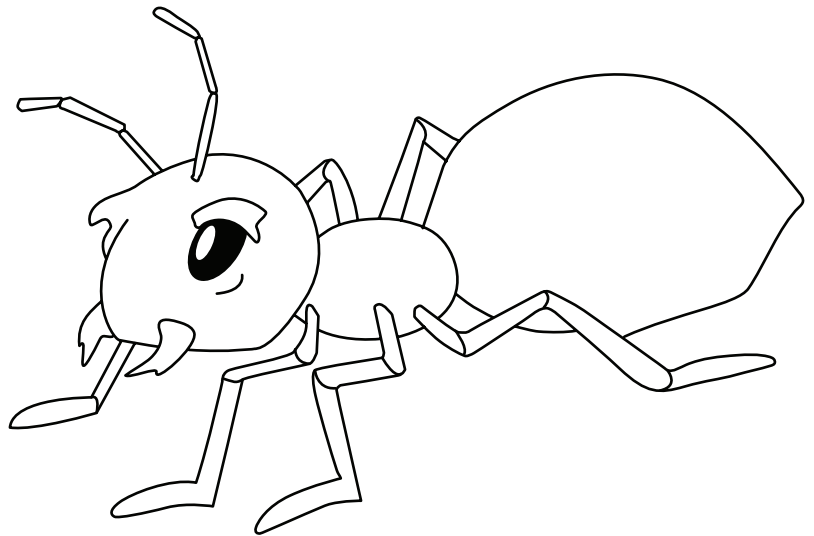
HINT: This is the most common animal found in mud. It eats organic matter, then leaves behind castings that are a beneficial fertilizer. It also burrows into the soil, making it easier for plant roots to absorb more air and water.

Age Level: 6-11 (elementary).
Key Definitions: Mud, earthworm, ant, centipede, crustaceans, wasp, earwig.
Objective: To learn and identify different types of critters that live in healthy soil.

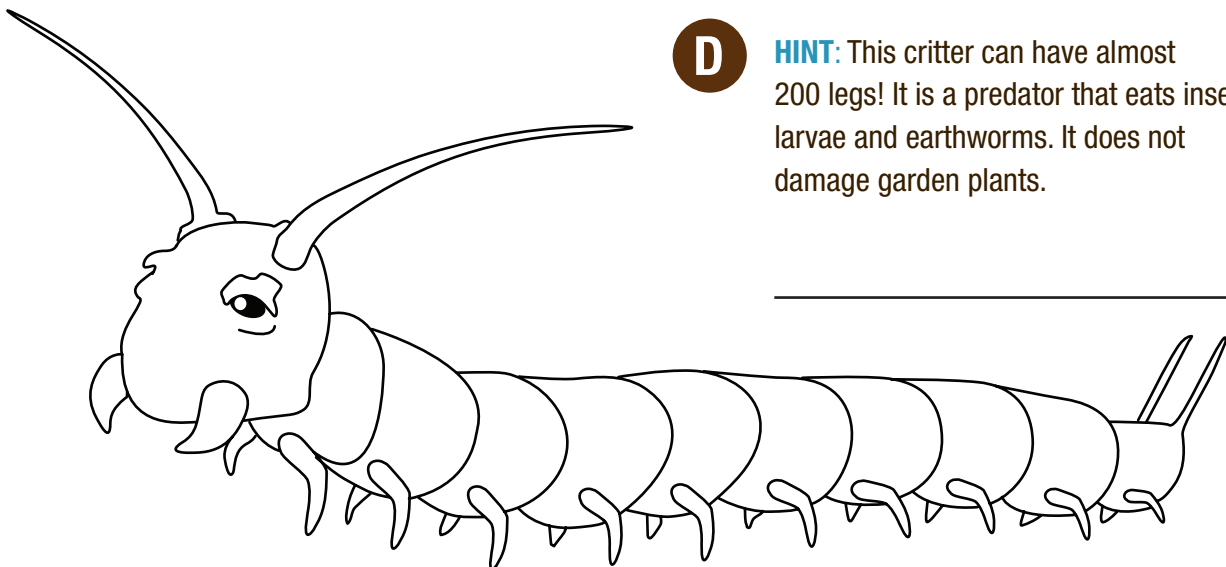


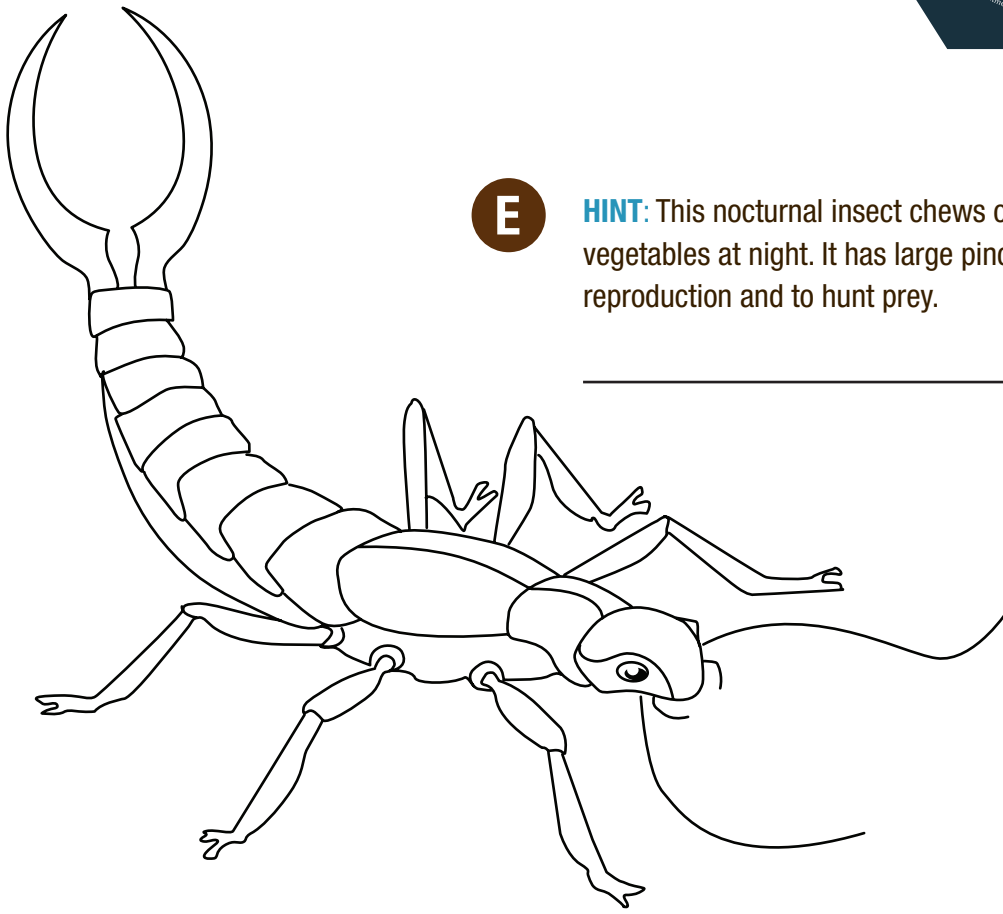
B **HINT:** This critter lives under rocks and logs and will roll into a ball when touched. It is not an insect, but rather a crustacean with a hard shell.

C **HINT:** This insect creates underground tunnels and distributes nutrients into the soil. They also have a large community of workers, similar to that of bees.



D **HINT:** This critter can have almost 200 legs! It is a predator that eats insect larvae and earthworms. It does not damage garden plants.



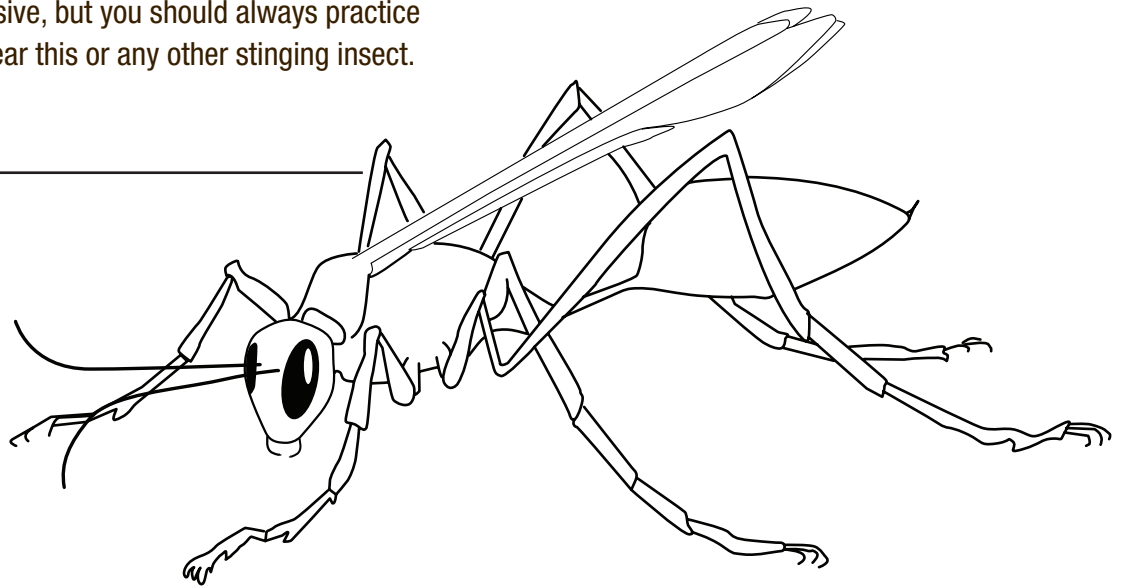


E

HINT: This nocturnal insect chews on flowers and vegetables at night. It has large pincers used for reproduction and to hunt prey.

F

HINT: This insect uses mud to build its home. It is not typically aggressive, but you should always practice caution when near this or any other stinging insect.



- A. Earthworm
- B. Pill Bug (Roly-Poly)

- C. Ant
- D. Centipede

- E. Earwig
- F. Mud Dauber Wasp