



# Invent an Invertebrate

## Distance Learning Activity



### Introduction:

Explore the incredible world of invertebrates, the animals that make up 95% of species on our planet.

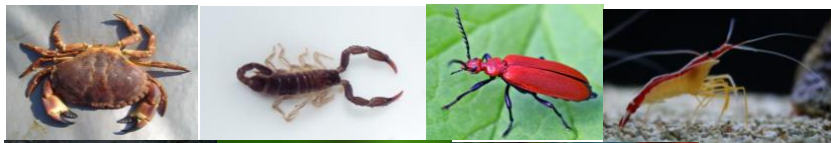
### Materials:

- A variety of random craft supplies (paper cups, paper plates, pipe cleaners, toothpicks, pom-poms, googly eyes, markers, crayons, string, etc.)
- Glue and/or tape
- Invent an invertebrate worksheet

### Background:

Invertebrates are animals that have no backbone or internal skeleton. They can be found in every environment on Earth: in the ocean, the rainforest, the desert and some are even found in your back yard! Invertebrates have a variety of different body shapes, number of appendages, feeding styles, and defense mechanisms. There are 4 main groups of invertebrates and they include **arthropod** (insects, arachnids, and crustaceans), **mollusks** (snails, bivalves, squids, and octopi), **annelids** (worms and leeches), and **cnidaria** (jellies, sea anemones, and corals). As you can see there is an incredible amount of diversity.

### Arthropods:



### Mollusks:



### Annelids:



### Cnidaria



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The table below illustrates the range of adaptations and characteristics in each group of invertebrates.

Keep these in mind as you create your own invertebrate!

### Invertebrate Body Plan Diversity

	<b>Arthropods</b>	<b>Mollusks</b>	<b>Annelids</b>	<b>Cnidaria</b>
<b>Body Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard external shell called an exoskeleton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard external Calcium Carbonate shell</li> <li>• Flexible internal shell</li> <li>• No shell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmented soft bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft bodies</li> <li>• Calcium Carbonate skeleton</li> </ul>
<b>Appendages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jointed appendages for movement and feeding</li> <li>• Sensory antennae</li> <li>• Compound eyes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscular foot</li> <li>• Tentacles</li> <li>• Siphon for jet propulsion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fleshy limbs called Parapodia used for movement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tentacles for feeding</li> </ul>
<b>Feeding Style</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scavengers</li> <li>• Herbivores</li> <li>• Predators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filter feeders</li> <li>• Herbivores</li> <li>• Omnivores</li> <li>• Carnivores</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passive suspension feeders</li> <li>• Scavengers</li> <li>• Active deposit feeders</li> <li>• Predators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filter feeders</li> <li>• Energy from symbiotic algae</li> <li>• Predators</li> </ul>
<b>Defense</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camouflage</li> <li>• Venom</li> <li>• Claws for fighting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camouflage</li> <li>• Hard Shells</li> <li>• Venomous</li> <li>• Color changing</li> <li>• Release ink</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camouflage</li> <li>• Build tubes for hiding</li> <li>• Biting or pinching</li> <li>• Bristles covered in toxins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stinging cells called nematocysts that contain a barb coated with a toxin that fires when animal is threatened</li> </ul>

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## Instructions:

In this activity you will create an invertebrate of your own. As you create your invertebrate, read through the worksheet and think about how your creature would survive and where it would live. There is no wrong way to make your invertebrate! As you are working on your invertebrate or after you have finished making it, answer the questions on the worksheet below.

## Resources:

Webpages: [Biology 4 Kids](#)  
[Britannica Kids](#)  
[National Geographic](#)

Videos: [Happy Learning](#)

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## Invent an Invertebrate!

1) What is the name of your invertebrate species?

2) Where does your invertebrate live?

3) What does your invertebrate eat?

4) What eats your invertebrate?

5) How does your invertebrate defend itself?

6) How does your invertebrate move around in its habitat?

7) What senses does your invertebrate have? Can it see, smell, taste, touch or hear? Are some senses better/stronger than others?

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