



# Insect Invention

An insect's body helps it thrive in its habitat. Some insects migrate with wings, others use color to camouflage. Some dig for shelter, and some stand up to their rivals. Have you ever noticed how insects look different from each other?

Learn more about insects' bodies on page three, and then invent your own insect with an egg carton, rock, or piece of paper.

## Materials

Egg carton or rock  
Paper  
Scissors  
Glue

Markers or paint  
Paintbrushes  
Pipe cleaners (optional)  
Googly eyes (optional)

## Directions

1. **Learn** about a few insects and their bodies on page 3.
2. **Think** about the insect you want to make and what adaptations you want it to have.  
Some questions to think about:
  - a. What do you want your insect to look like?
  - b. Do you want it to blend into its surroundings?
  - c. Do you want it to have the ability to fly? To dig? To jump?
  - d. Can it make sounds?
3. **Design** your insect using a rock, a piece of paper, or an egg carton. Learn more about the different designs on the next page.
4. **Name** your insect. What kind of habitat would it live in? What would it eat?
5. **Challenge:** Pick a habitat (a spot in nature near where you live, a bookshelf, in your kitchen, etc.) and try to design an insect that would camouflage and blend into its surroundings. Once you are done, see if someone else can spot your insect.

## Design 1: Rock

1. Go outside and find a rock. Be careful not to disturb live plants and animals, and make sure to follow the rules of the natural environment you are visiting.
2. Paint the rock to look like your insect. Paint wings, antennae, eyes, anything you want.



## Design 2: Paper

1. Find a blank piece of paper.
1. Draw or paint your insect. Show different sides of your insect: top, side, and front views. *Optional: Glue pipe cleaners to your insect to make wings or legs.*



## Design 3: Egg carton

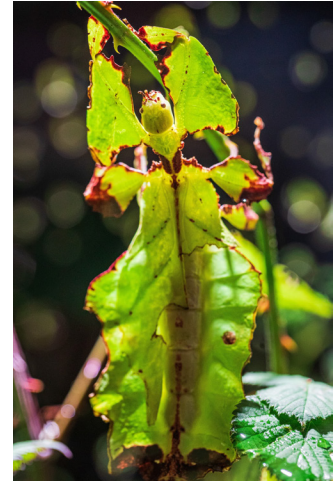
2. Cut out one cup from an egg carton.
3. Using paint or markers, color your insect. Make it any color and pattern you want.





**Monarch butterflies** use their wings for many different things, including warming up their bodies in cold weather and scaring off predators. Their wings also help them migrate up to 2,000 miles (about 3,200 kilometers) every year!

**Leaf insects** have bodies that help them camouflage or blend into their habitat. By camouflaging, they can stay hidden from both predators and prey. Can you think of any other insects that use camouflage? What do they look like?



**Madagascar hissing cockroaches** can make sounds with their bodies. By pushing air through holes on their sides called *spiracles*, they produce the hissing sound they are named for. This sound helps them communicate with other hissing cockroaches and warn off predators.

**Male rhinoceros beetles** use their horns for competition during mating season. The shape of their horns is different depending on the species. Some species can lift up to 850 times their body weight. That's like an adult human lifting six school buses!

