



Small Crawling and Flying Animals



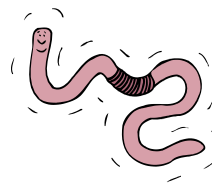
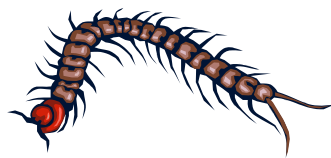
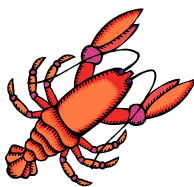
All animals can be **classified** as either:

- **Vertebrates** (animals with backbones), or
- **Invertebrates** (animals without backbones)

More than 90% of all animals are **invertebrates**:

1. **Flatworms and Roundworms**: Some are flat and some are round!
2. **Segmented Worms**: are divided into segments or rings. E.g.: Earthworms and leeches
3. **Mollusks**: “soft bodies” and a hard shell. E.g.: clams, oysters, snails, slugs, squid and octopuses.
4. **Arthropods**: “joint-limbed,” with external skeletons.
4 major groups:
 1. **Crustaceans** mostly live in the water. E.g.: crayfish, lobsters, shrimps, and crabs.
 2. **Centipedes and millipedes**: wormlike animals with many legs.
 3. **Arachnids**: 8 legs, and 2 body parts (head and thorax), no wings, and no antennae. E.g.: spiders, scorpions, ticks.
 4. **Insects**: 6 legs, and 3 body parts (head, thorax, and abdomen), antennae. The adults have wings.
 - Hatch from eggs and go through **metamorphosis** “change form” (egg, nymph, and adult; or egg, larva, pupa and adult)

Not all small crawling and flying creatures are harmful. Many serve as food for other animals. They also pollinate flowers, eat animal waste, etc.



Some of this information is adapted from:

Science Alberta Foundation. (2006). Let's Do Science 2: a teacher's guide to the Alberta elementary science curriculum. 89-92.