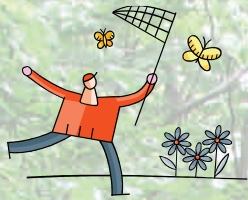


# HUMBER ARBORETUM ECO CENTRE



# INSECTS

## INTERESTING FACTS

- ✧ The fastest insect in the world is a kind of horse fly which can go 145 km per hour.
- ✧ Houseflies find sugar with their feet, which are 10 million times more sensitive than human tongues.
- ✧ A bee can fly 100km in one day while gathering food.
- ✧ Ants can lift and carry more than 50 times their own weight.
- ✧ 95% of all the animal species in the world are insects.
- ✧ Mosquitoes are attracted to the carbon dioxide we exhale when we breathe.
- ✧ The female yellow jacket wasp lays both fertilized and unfertilized eggs. Female workers develop from the fertilized egg and male drones develop from the unfertilized egg.
- ✧ There are more than 300,000 species of beetles, making them the largest order of insects in the world.
- ✧ Over one million species have been discovered by scientists, and they think that there might be ten times that many that haven't been named yet!



## COOL ACTIVITIES

### ANT FARM

- ✧ Place the smaller glass container that you have chosen inside the larger container. The purpose of the smaller container is purely to take up space and to encourage the ants to build their tunnels against the outside glass for easy viewing.



- ✧ Locate an ant farm in your yard and dig carefully in the area where you see the most ants. Transfer some soft soil, with the ants, into a bucket. Try to find some larger ants or a queen ant with wings, along with eggs and larvae.
- ✧ Using a paper cone or funnel, gently add soil and the smaller worker ants to the space between the two containers. Add the queen, eggs and larvae last, sliding them gently down the funnel to rest on the soil. The worker ants will quickly begin to relocate their queen and her offspring in their new home.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the three parts of an insect's body? (ANS: Head, thorax, and abdomen)
2. What do insects use their antennae for? (ANS: Insects use their antennae to smell.)
3. What function do the knees of an insect play? (ANS: Insects use their knees to hear.)
4. What do insects use to taste? (ANS: The feet of insects are used for tasting)
5. What does the term exoskeleton mean? (ANS: Insects are very unique because unlike humans their skeleton is on the outside of their body. Exoskeletons contain components that fulfil a set of functional roles including protection, excretion, sensing, support, feeding and (for terrestrial organisms) acting as a barrier against drying out.
6. What do insects see with compound eyes? (ANS: It is of course impossible for humans to perceive what an insect sees. But we think that a compound eye, consisting of 2 to 30 000 lenses will project a sort of mosaic picture. In most cases the compound eyes will see only form and movements.