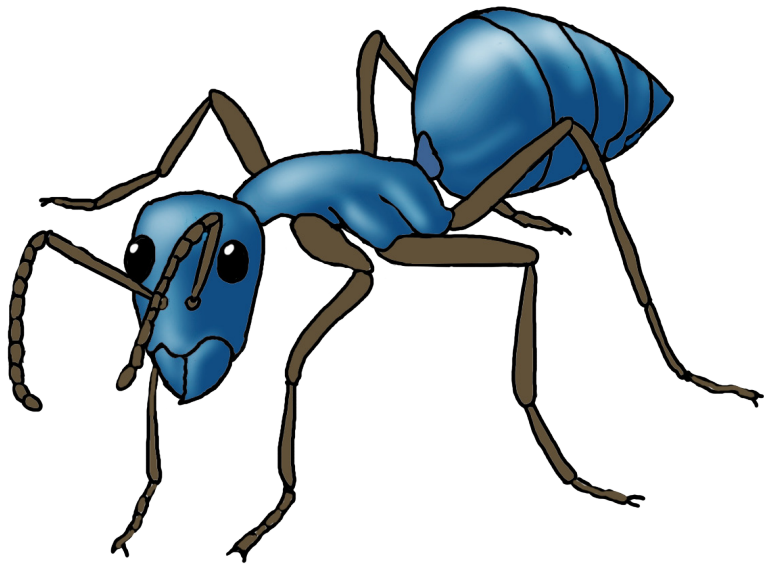




the ant



Ants are clever insects. They can smell each other with their antennae.



Ants are good for compost because they carry minerals. Minerals make the compost richer.



Ants have tiny waists so they can twist easily.



Ants have strong jaws to chop up their food.



Ants live in big families underground. Their mother is the queen.





Most snails live in rivers or the sea. The snails that live on land still need to keep wet or they will die.



Snails eat mostly leaves, but some snails eat other snails too!



The snail's tongue is like a cheese grater so it can scrape the leaves and swallow the bits.

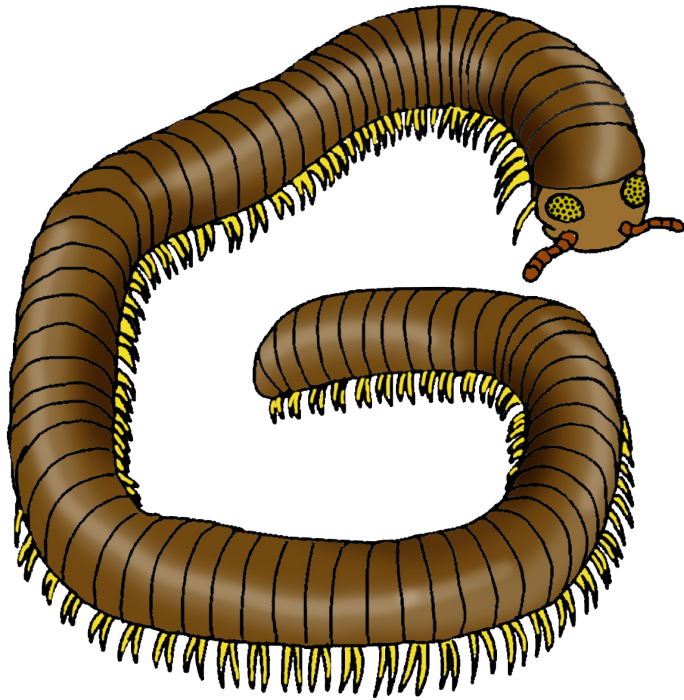


When it's dry in summer, snails stick themselves to stones and sticks and sleep inside their shell.



the snail





the millipede



The millipede has a hard skin to protect it from predators. In danger it rolls up to protect its soft tummy.



“Millipede” means one thousand legs. Millipedes have lots of legs but not really a thousand.



Millipedes eat lots of dead leaves and bark and turn it into compost.

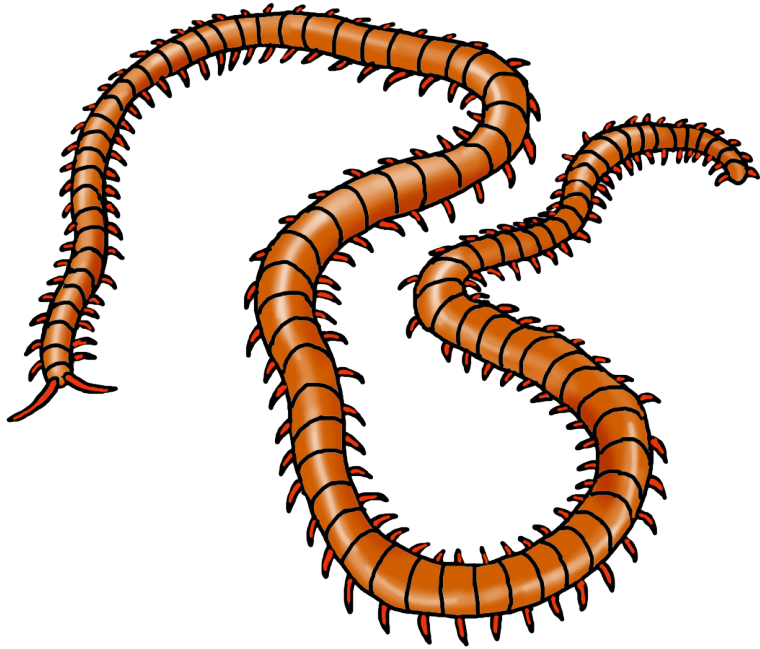


The millipede’s eyes are not very good. It uses its antennae to feel its way about in the dark.



Watch it walk. It lifts its legs in pairs and moves like a wave.





the centipede



Centipedes need to stay in damp places or their skin will dry out.



Centipedes are long and wriggly like earthworms.



The centipede can move fast because it has many legs.

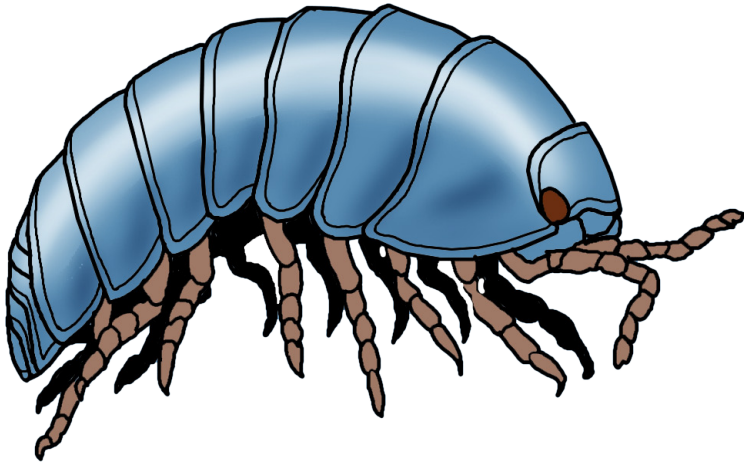


Centipedes eat leaves that they find in the compost. They also eat bugs and worms.



The name centipede means 100 legs but the centipede doesn't really have 100 legs.





the woodlouse



The woodlouse loves damp compost heap. Compost is an excellent home for it.



Woodlice live for about two years.



The woodlouse eats dead leaves and wood and turns them into compost.

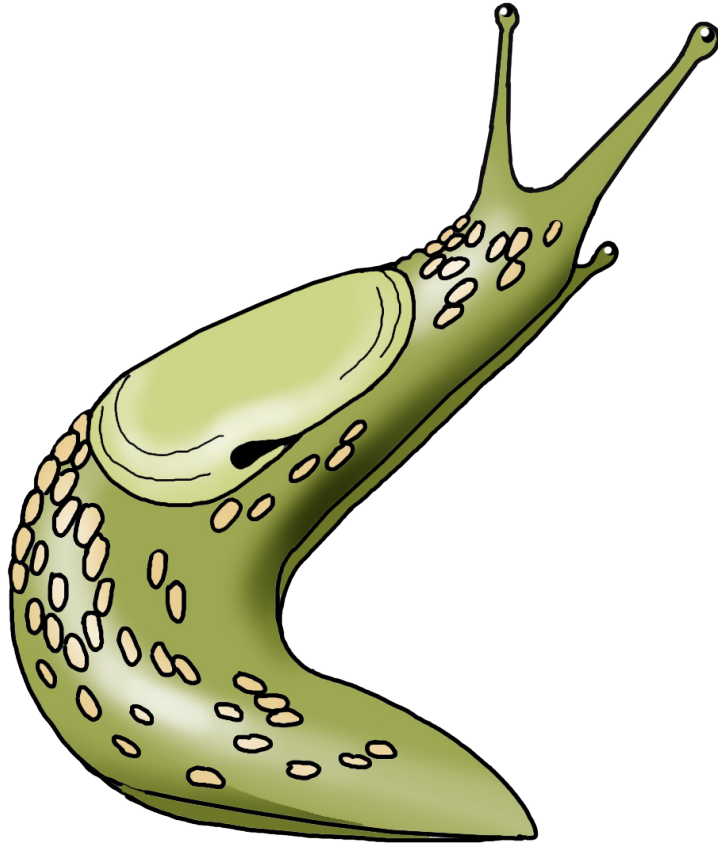


The woodlouse has hard plates on its back. When it feels danger it rolls up into a ball.



The woodlouse uses its antennae to feel its way around. Its eyes only see light and dark.





the slug



Slugs must keep their skin wet. The air passes through its wet skin and the slug can breathe.



Slugs have very strong skin. They can crawl over sharp things and not get hurt.

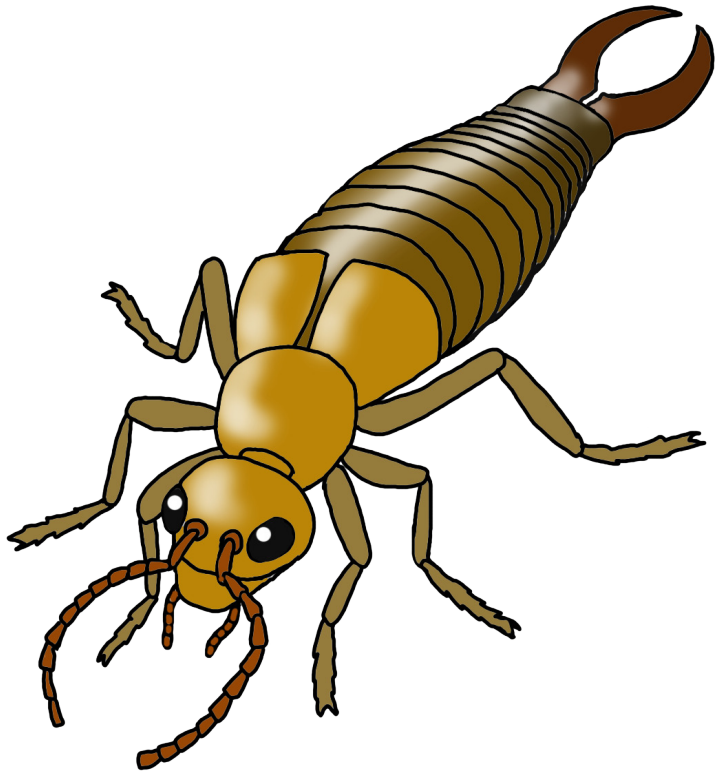


Slugs have eyes on stalks so they can see around them better. They can pull their eyes in to protect them from damage.



Slugs eat vegetables in the compost. This makes the compost richer.





the earwig



Earwigs get their name from an old story that said they crawl into people's ears! But that's not true. Earwigs don't hurt people.



Earwigs like to live in compost because it's nice and damp.



Earwig mums look after their eggs and their young when they hatch.

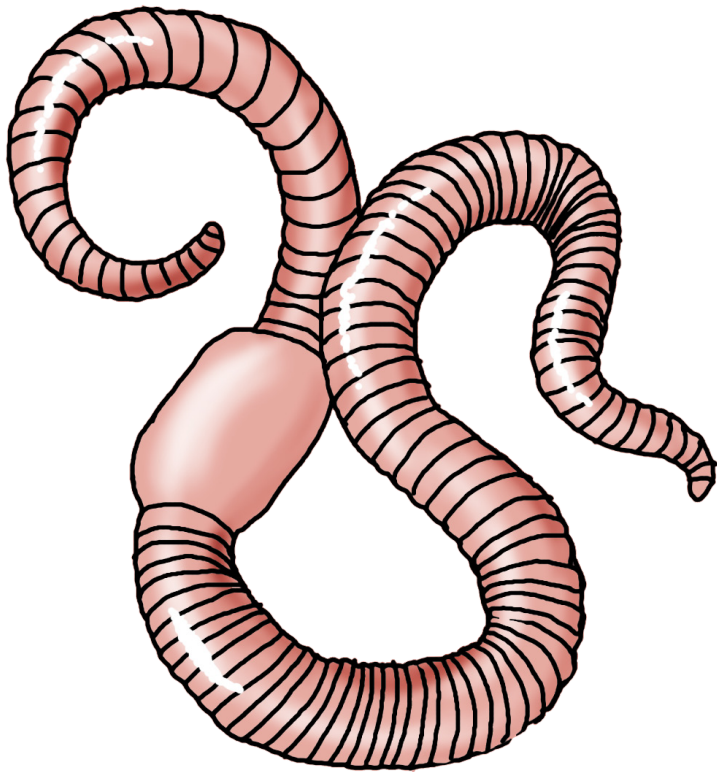


The earwig uses its jaws to cut up leaves.



The earwig uses its pincers to defend itself from predators.





the earthworm



The earthworm lives in damp ground.



The earthworm can only breathe if its skin is wet.



The earthworm makes lots of tunnels in the soil. This is good for the soil because air can come in from the tunnels.



The earthworm is long, thin, slippery and wriggly. It can pass through tiny spaces.

