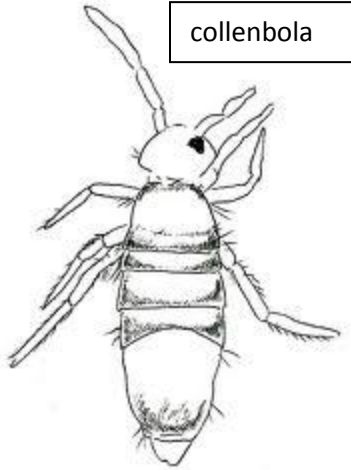
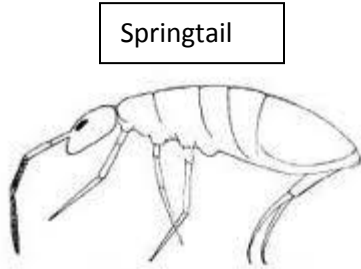


# Compost Critters Identification Worksheet

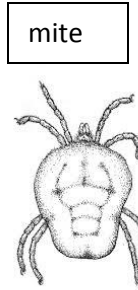
Circle Me if You Can Find Me



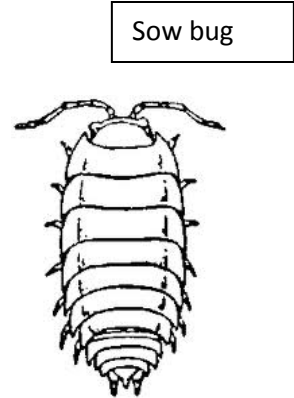
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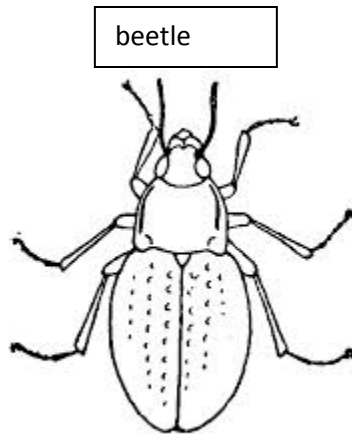
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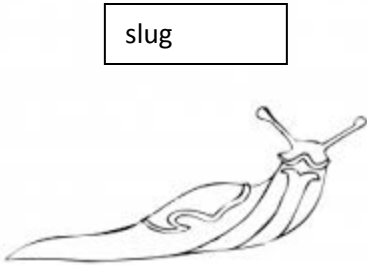
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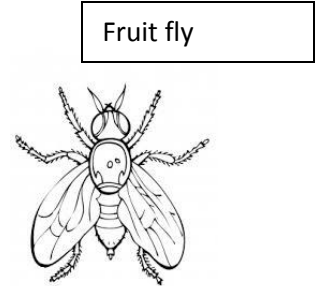
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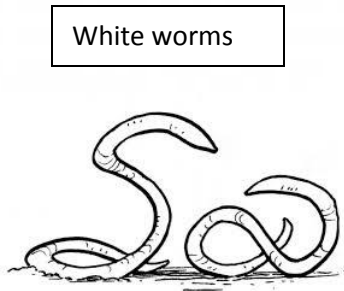
beetle



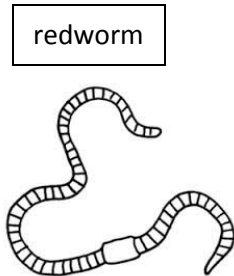
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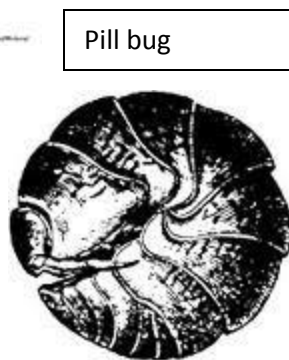
Fruit fly



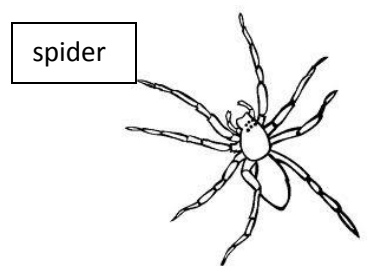
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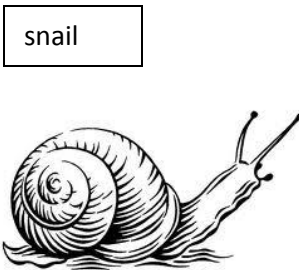
redworm



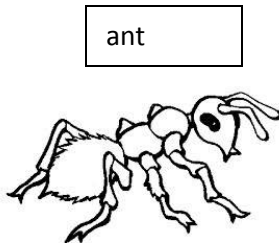
Pill bug



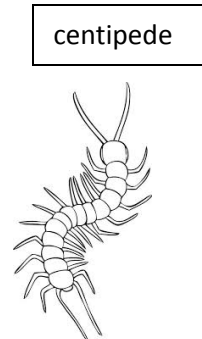
spider



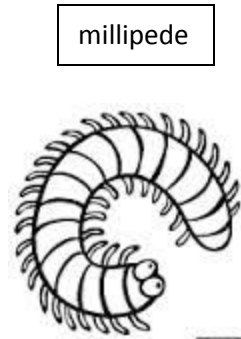
snail



ant



centipede

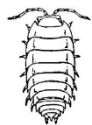


millipede

# Compost Critters Information Sheet



**Collembola:** I am a close relative of the springtail, but I can't jump. I am tiny, and less than 1/16 of an inch long. I eat molds and decaying matter. I am white in color.



**Sow bug:** I have 10 pairs of legs. That makes me an isopod like my cousin the Roly Poly. I eat vegetation and old leaves. My ½-inch-long body is oval and flat with flattened plates, but I can't roll up into a ball like a Roly Poly. I am related to crayfish and lobsters. I breathe with gills so I must live in a damp, moist place. I am a dark grayish color.



**Beetle:** I am an insect with shiny, black, tough wings and am ½ inch long. I am a predator and eat slugs, snails, and soft insects such as caterpillars. I live beneath stones, boards, and other moist places.



**Snail:** Like my friend the slug, I am a mollusk and creep around on my muscular belly. I carry on my back a spirally curved shell. I also have a broad retractable foot and a distinctive head. Like slugs, I prefer to eat living material, but I will also show up in your compost pile or worm bin from time to time for lunch.



**Centipede:** I move quickly on my many legs. I have 15-137 segments with a pair of legs on each. I am a fierce hunter. I love to eat earthworms. I use my pair of poison claws to help keep my prey from getting away. I am about 1-2 inches long. I am usually reddish brown.



**Springtail:** I am a tiny insect less than 1/16 inch long. I eat molds and decaying materials. I have a little spring that helps me jump high into the air. I am white in color.



**Slug:** I have muscular discs on my underside that are adapted for creeping and crawling. I lay egg masses that look like Jell-O. I eat living material, but will make an appearance from time to time in your compost pile to eat fresh garbage and garden trimmings.



**Fruit Fly:** I am a very small fly. People don't like me, but I don't bite, sting, or make buzzing sounds. I don't harm earthworms either. Sometimes you will see me around a worm bin if a person forgot to bury their food. I like to lay my eggs where it's moist and warm.



**Mite:** I am tiny. It would take 25 of us to cover an inch-long line. My body is round and fat so it's hard to see my eight legs. I eat plant materials such as mold and soft tissues of leaves. Some of us eat the manure of other organisms. I am usually white or Brown.



**White worm:** I look like a frayed piece of thread. I am a skinny, white worm. I am ½ to 1 inch long. I am related to an earthworm. I like to eat rotting food after the other bugs get to it. You might think of me as one who likes to finish off the job.



**Spider:** I am related to mites and have eight nifty legs. I am one of the least appreciated animals in the garden and compost. I feed on other insects and work hard to help control pests that will hurt a garden.



**Ant:** I am an insect with six legs. I help to decompose by breaking materials into smaller particles. I create tunnels, and move soil into clumps. Some people would rather not have me around their homes. I am black, brown, or red.



**Millipede:** I have so many legs you would have a hard time counting them. My name means "thousand legs," but I don't have that many. I am very shy and I roll up into a ball to avoid danger. I am a vegetarian and eat soft, moist, decaying plants. I am dark-red in color and am 1-3 inches long.



**Pill Bug:** I am an isopod, which means I have ten pairs of legs that look very similar to each other. I eat old leaves and veggie scraps. I am about ½ inch long and I roll up in a ball if I am disturbed. Some people think I look like a little armadillo. I am a grayish, dark color.



**Earthworm:** I am a long, thin, soft-bodied animal. My body is made up of little segments. I do not have legs or eyes. I sense light and I breathe through my skin. I eat bacteria, fungi, and other decaying materials. I like dark, moist places.