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Photo Victor Falzon



Nemla
Ant



Photo Desirée Falzon



Bebbuxu
Snail



Photo Guido Bonetti



Hanex tal-Indewwa
Millipede



Photo John J Borg



Xini
Centipede



Photo Desirée Falzon



Hanzir l-Art
Woodlouse



Photo Desirée Falzon



Bugħarwien
Slug





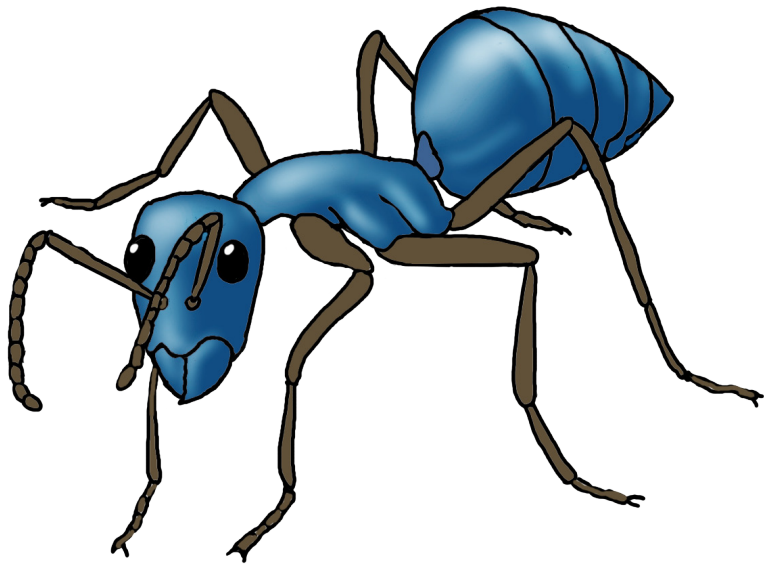
Mqass
Earwig



Hanex
Earthworm







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.

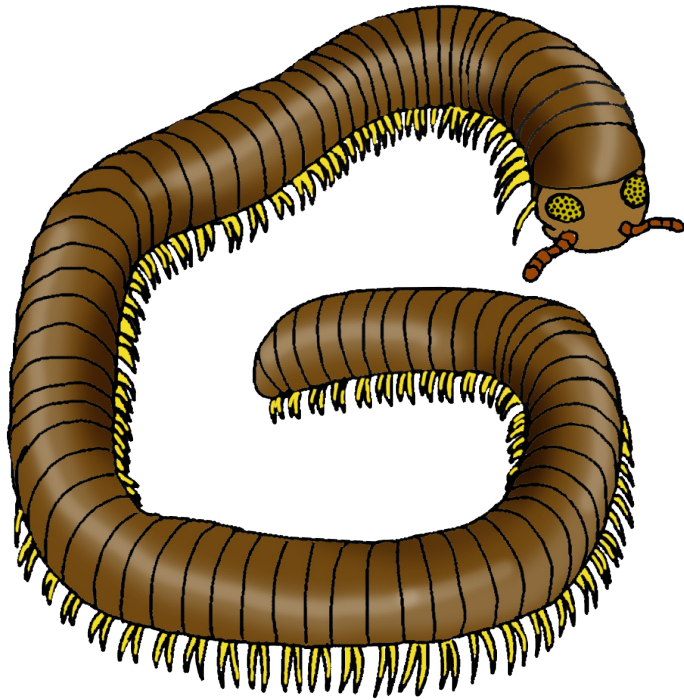


When it's dry in summer, snails stick themselves to stones and sticks and sleep inside their shell.



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.

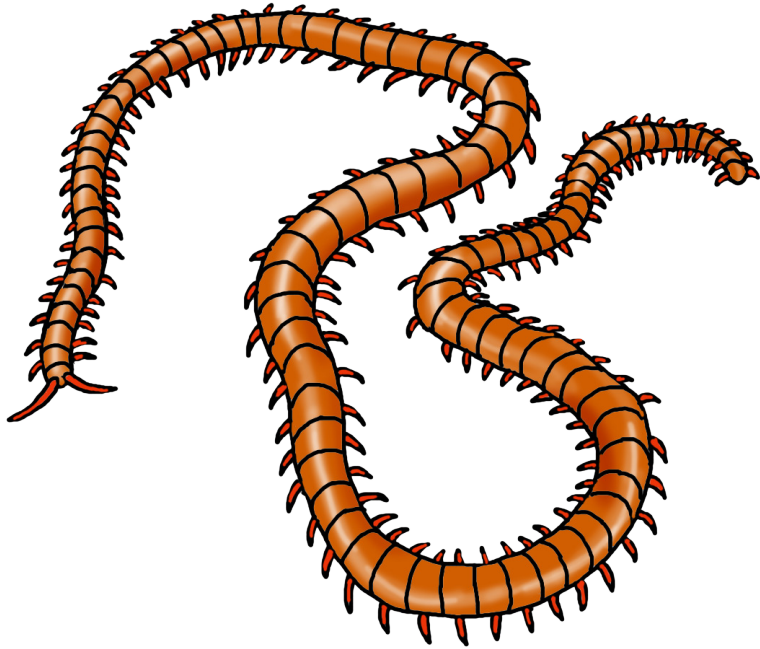


The millipede’s eyes are not very good. It uses its antennae to feel its way about in the dark.



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.

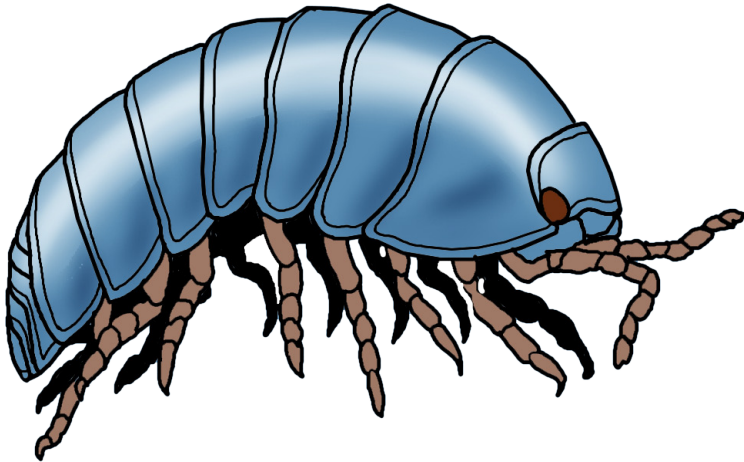


Centipedes eat leaves that they find in the compost. They also eat bugs and worms.



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.

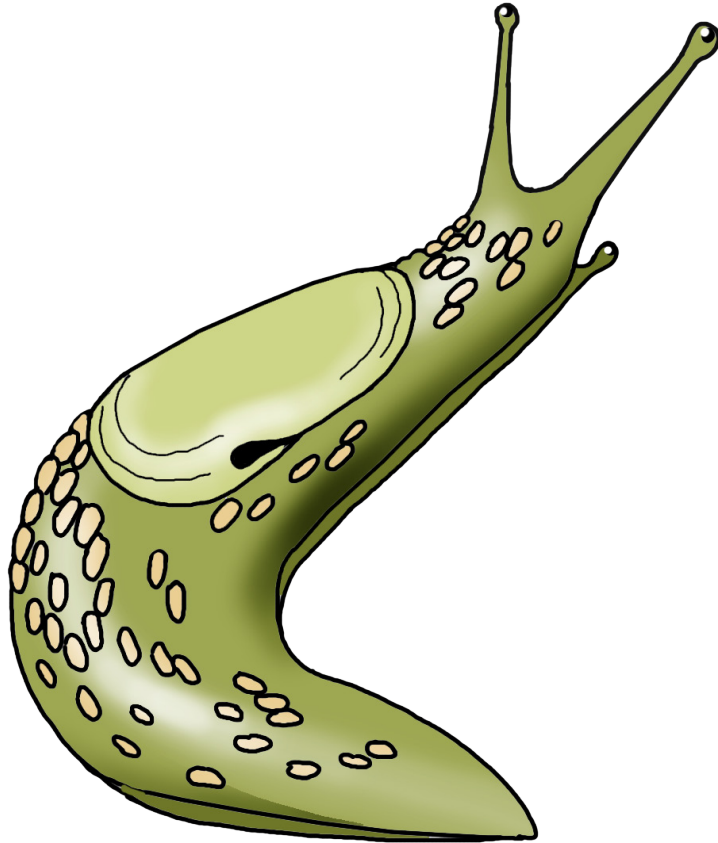


The woodlouse has hard plates on its back. When it feels danger it rolls up into a ball.



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.

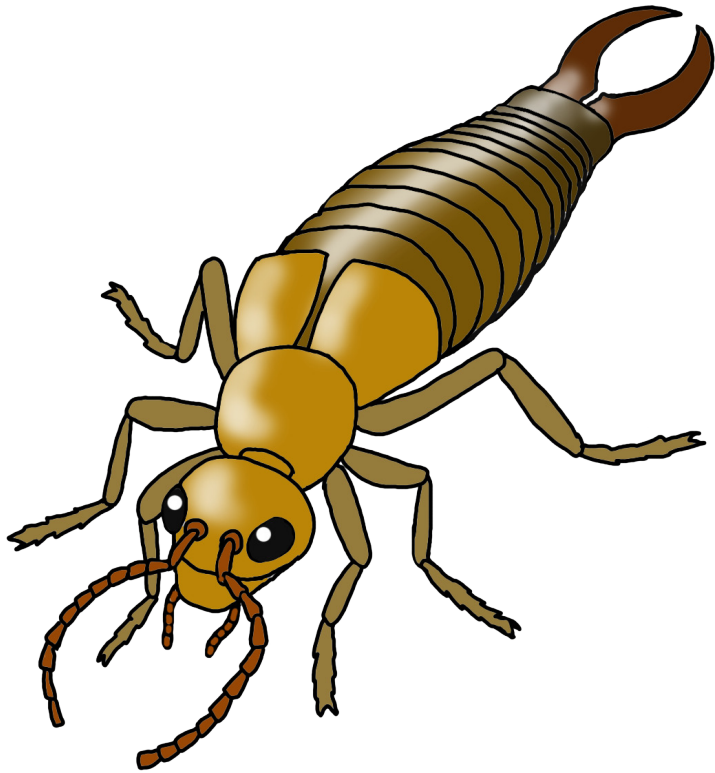


Slugs have eyes on stalks so they can see around them better. They can pull their eyes in to protect them from damage.



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.

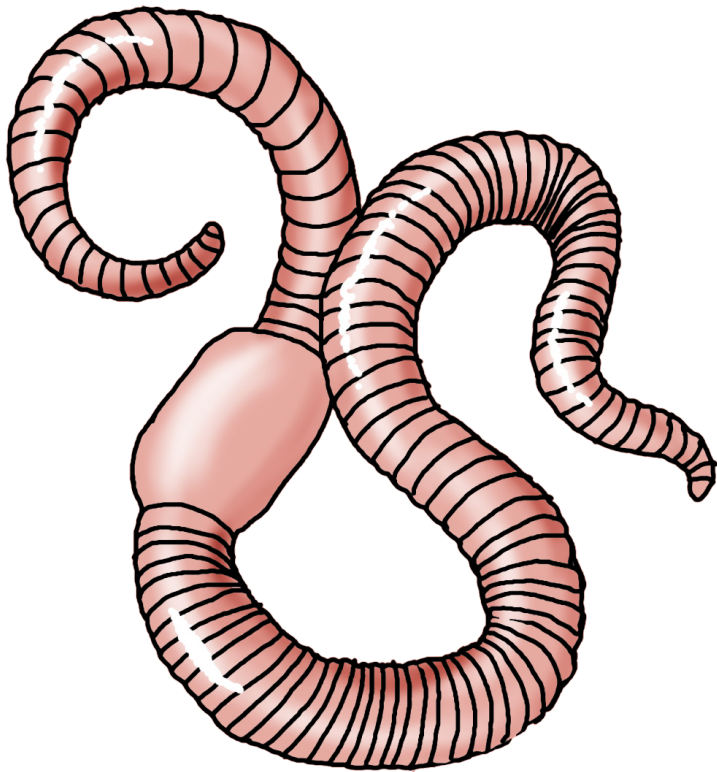


The earwig uses its jaws to cut up leaves.



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.

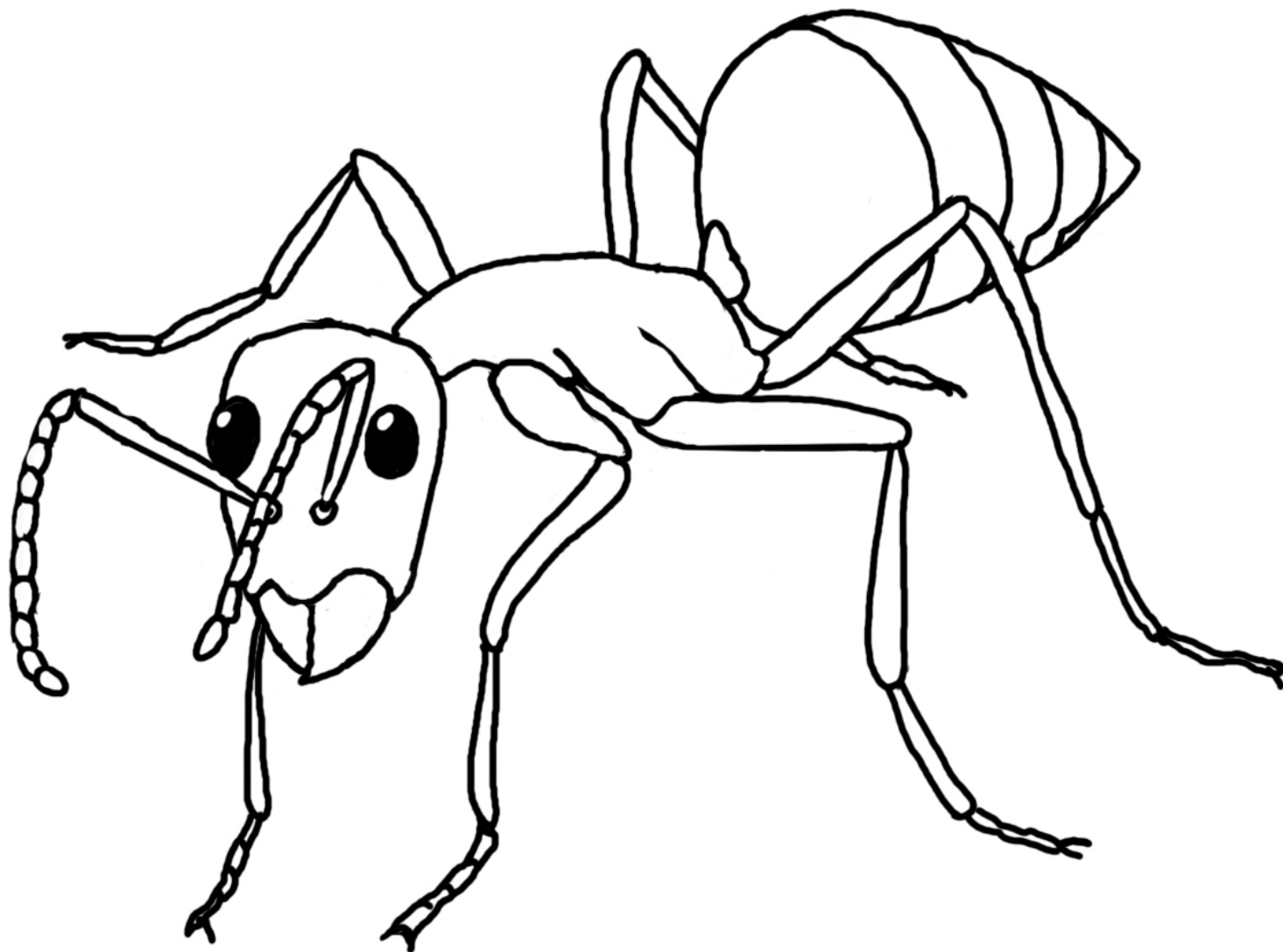


The earthworm makes lots of tunnels in the soil. This is good for the soil because air can come in from the tunnels.



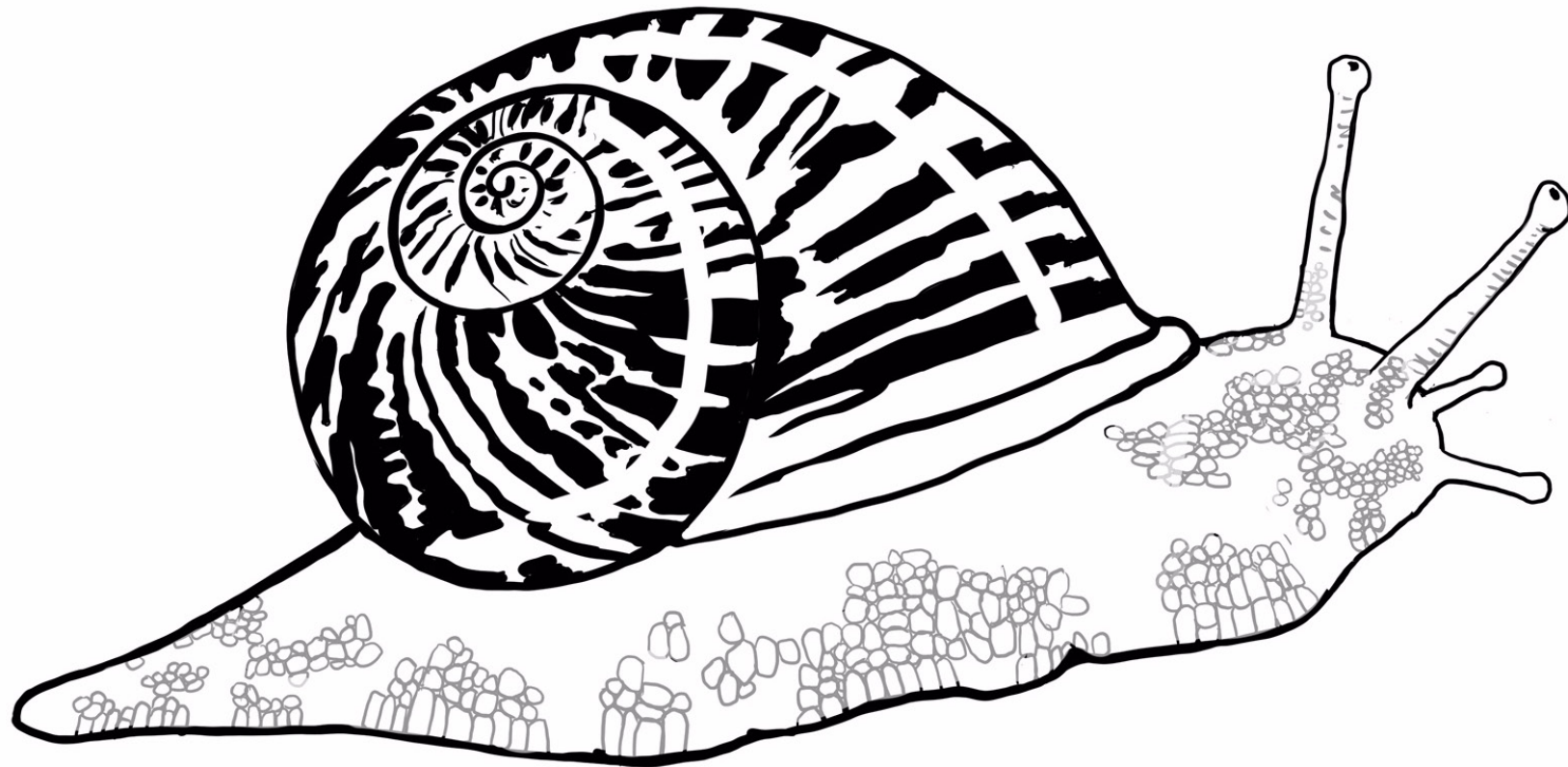
The earthworm is long, thin, slippery and wriggly. It can pass through tiny spaces.



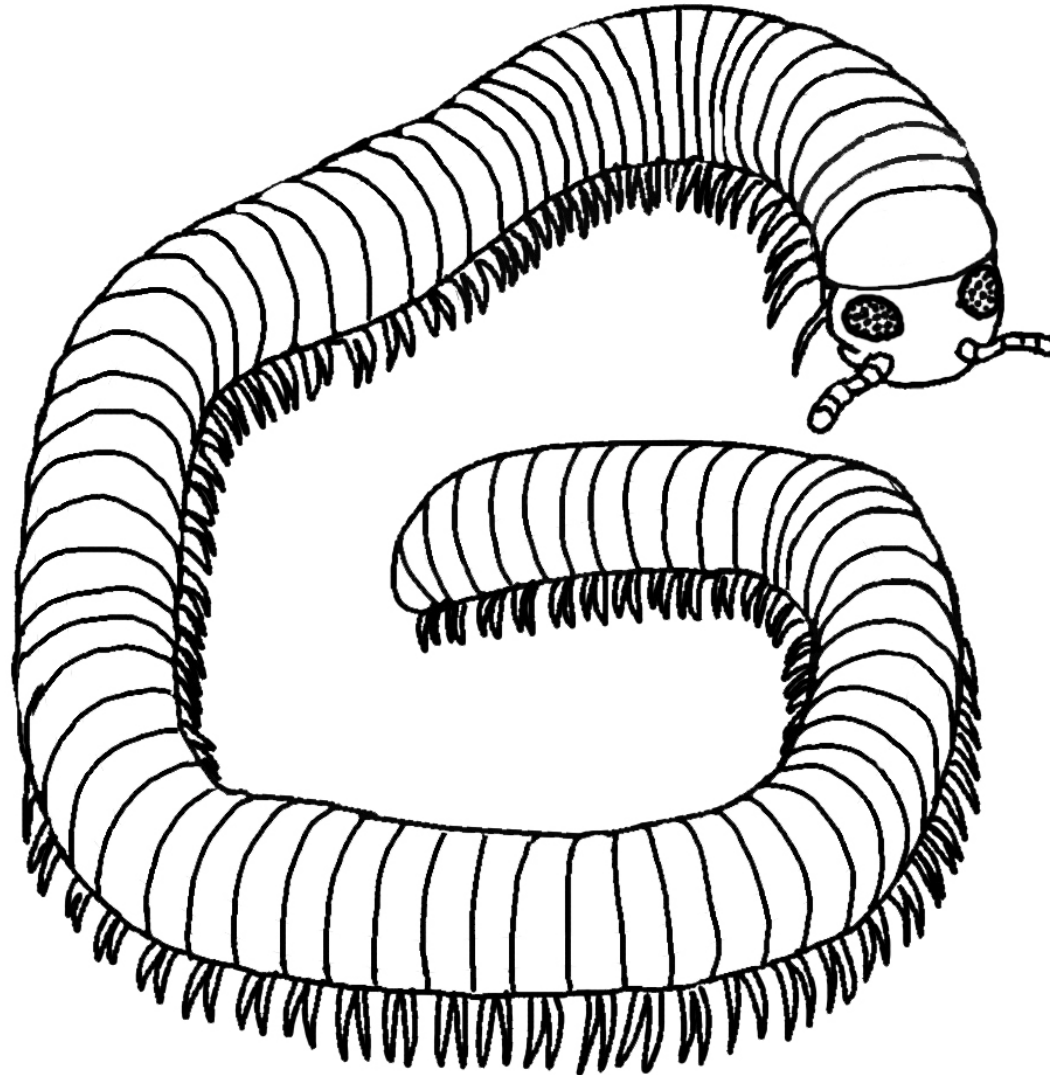


the ant



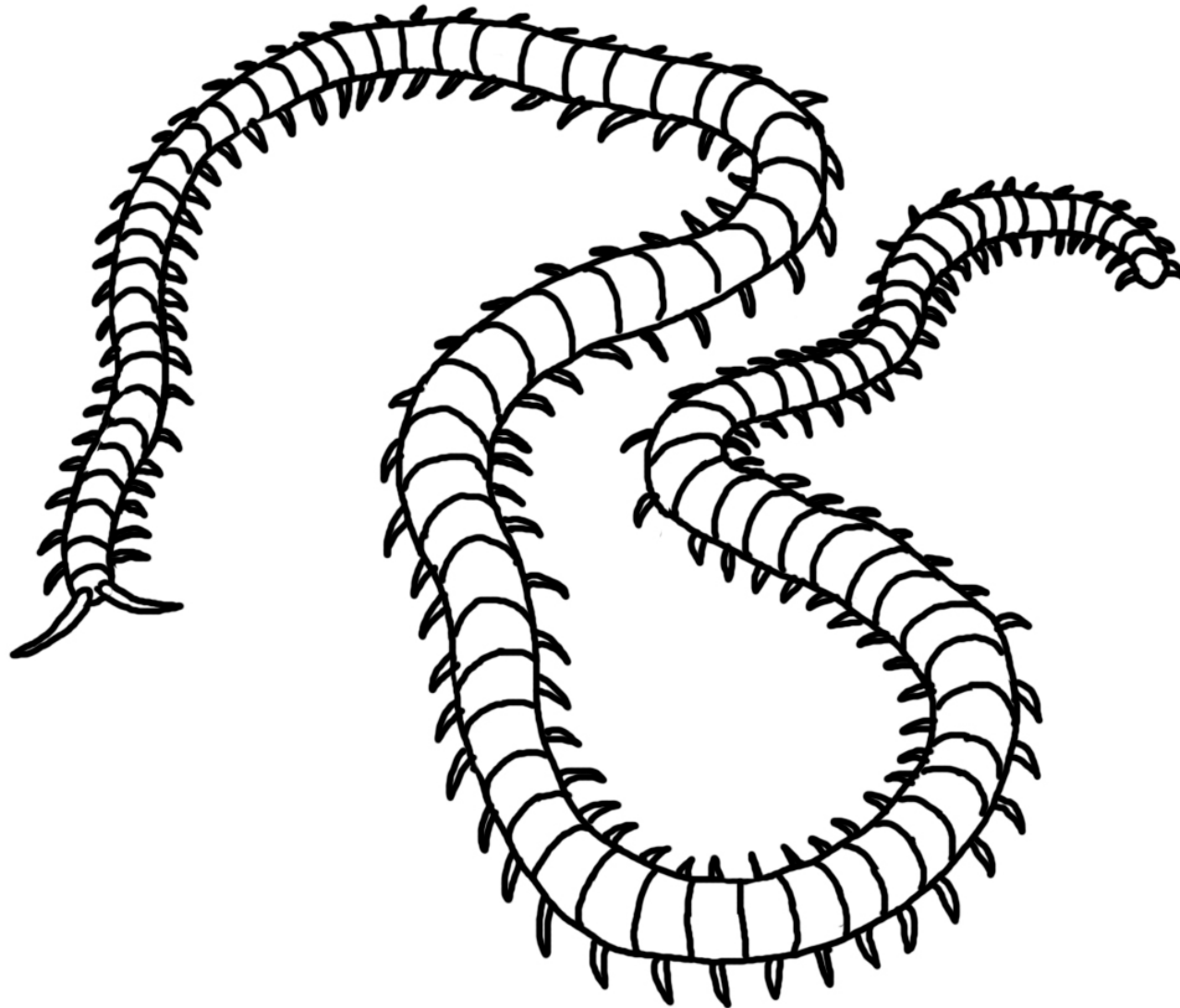


the snail



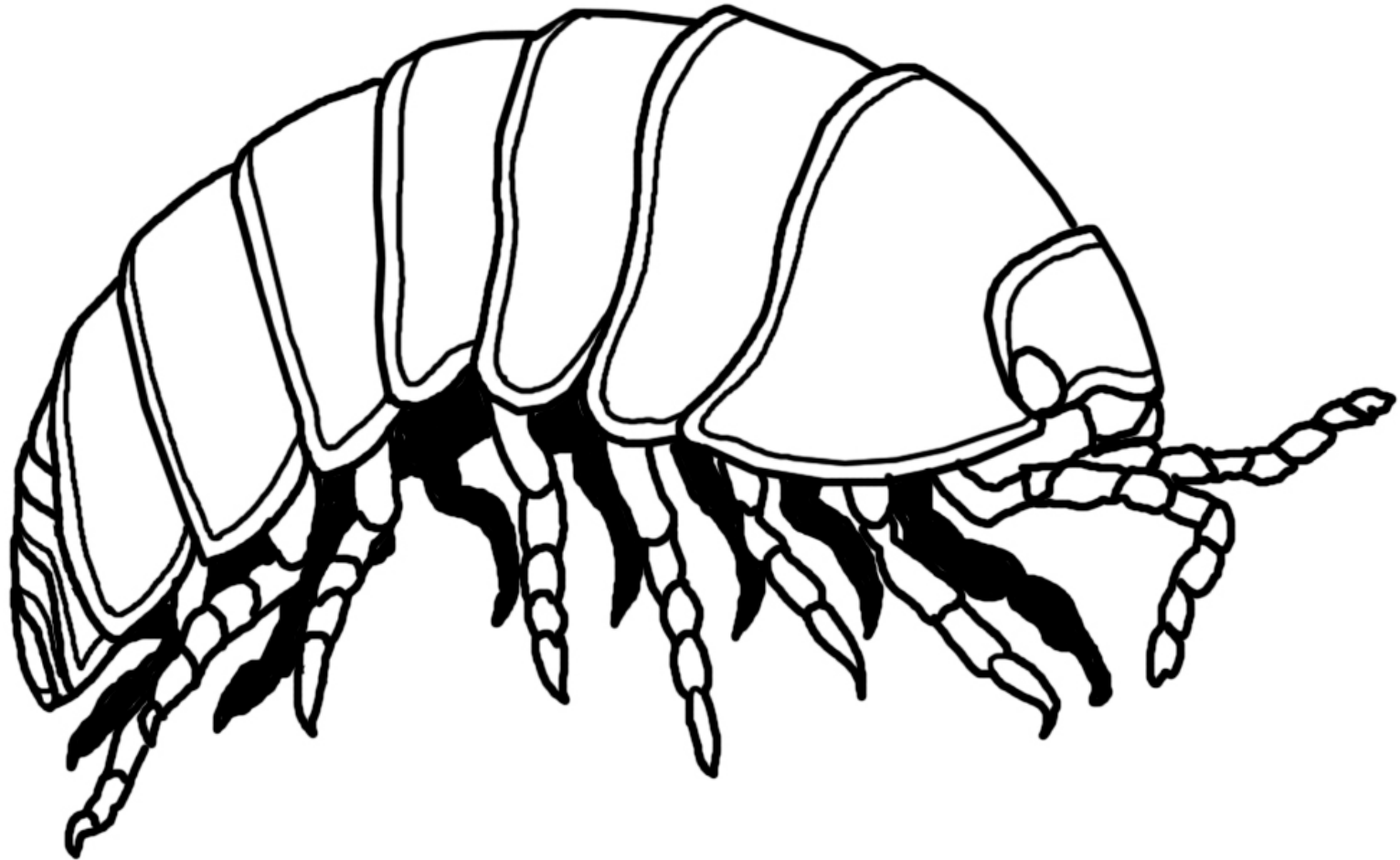
the millipede





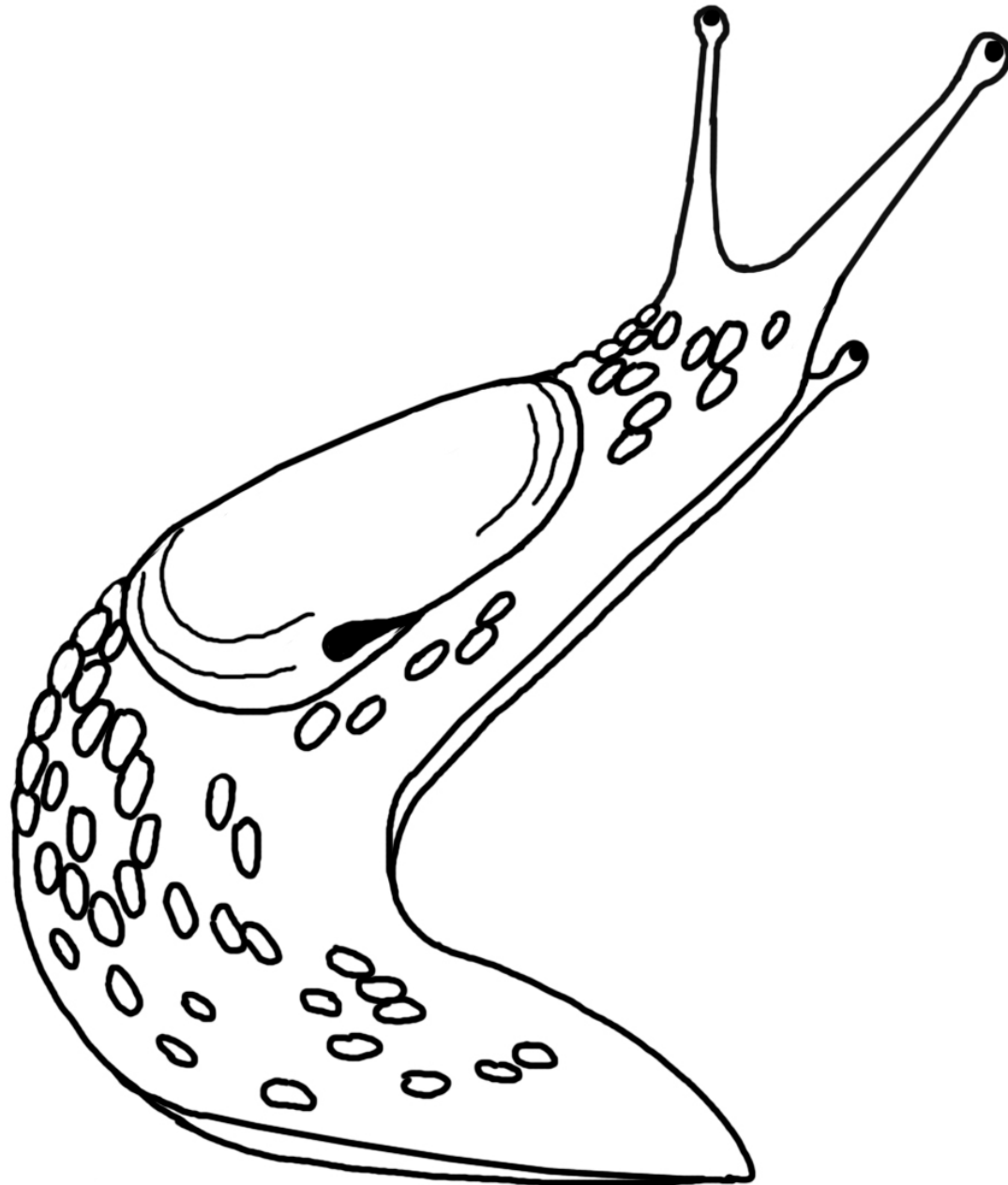
the centipede





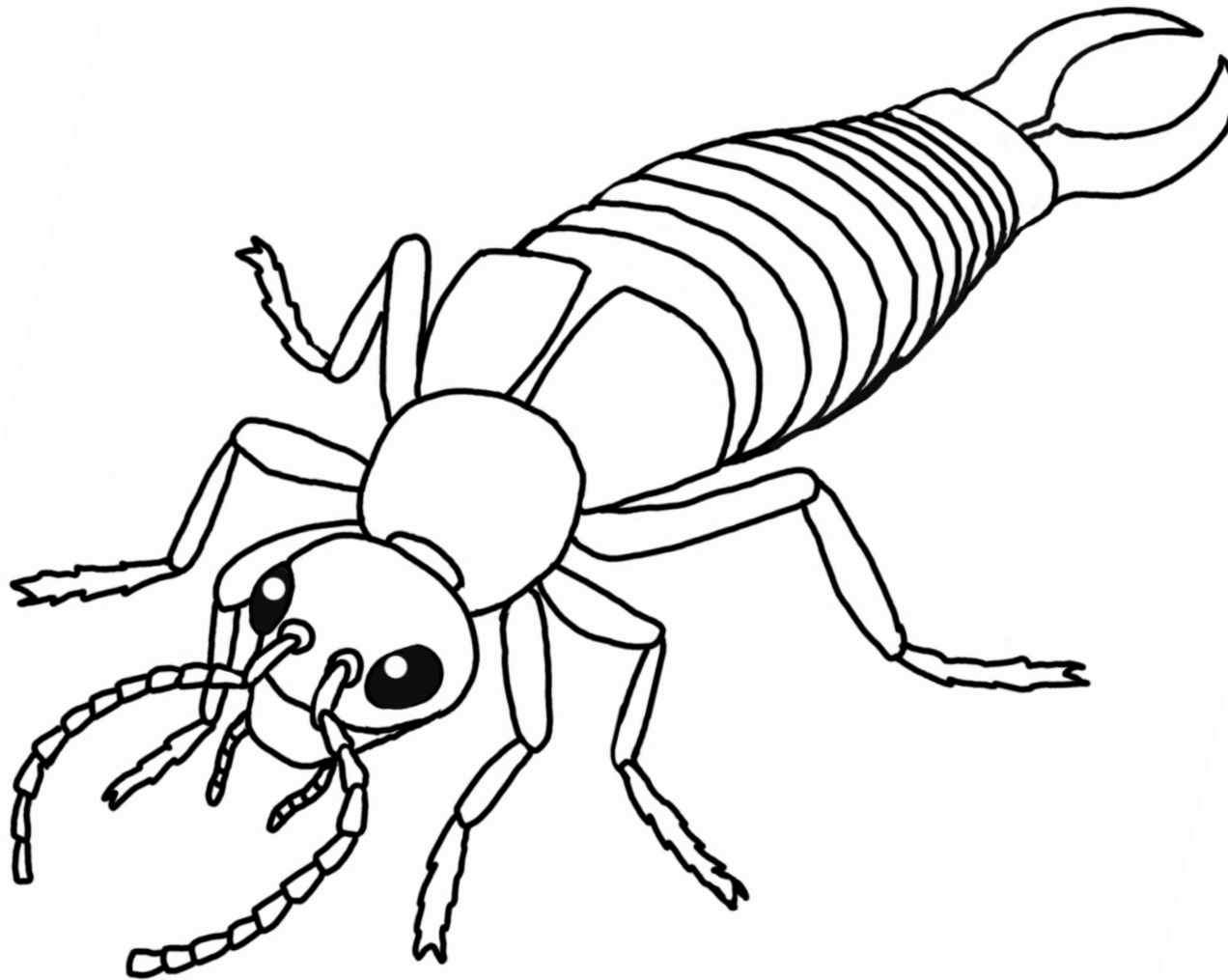
the woodlouse





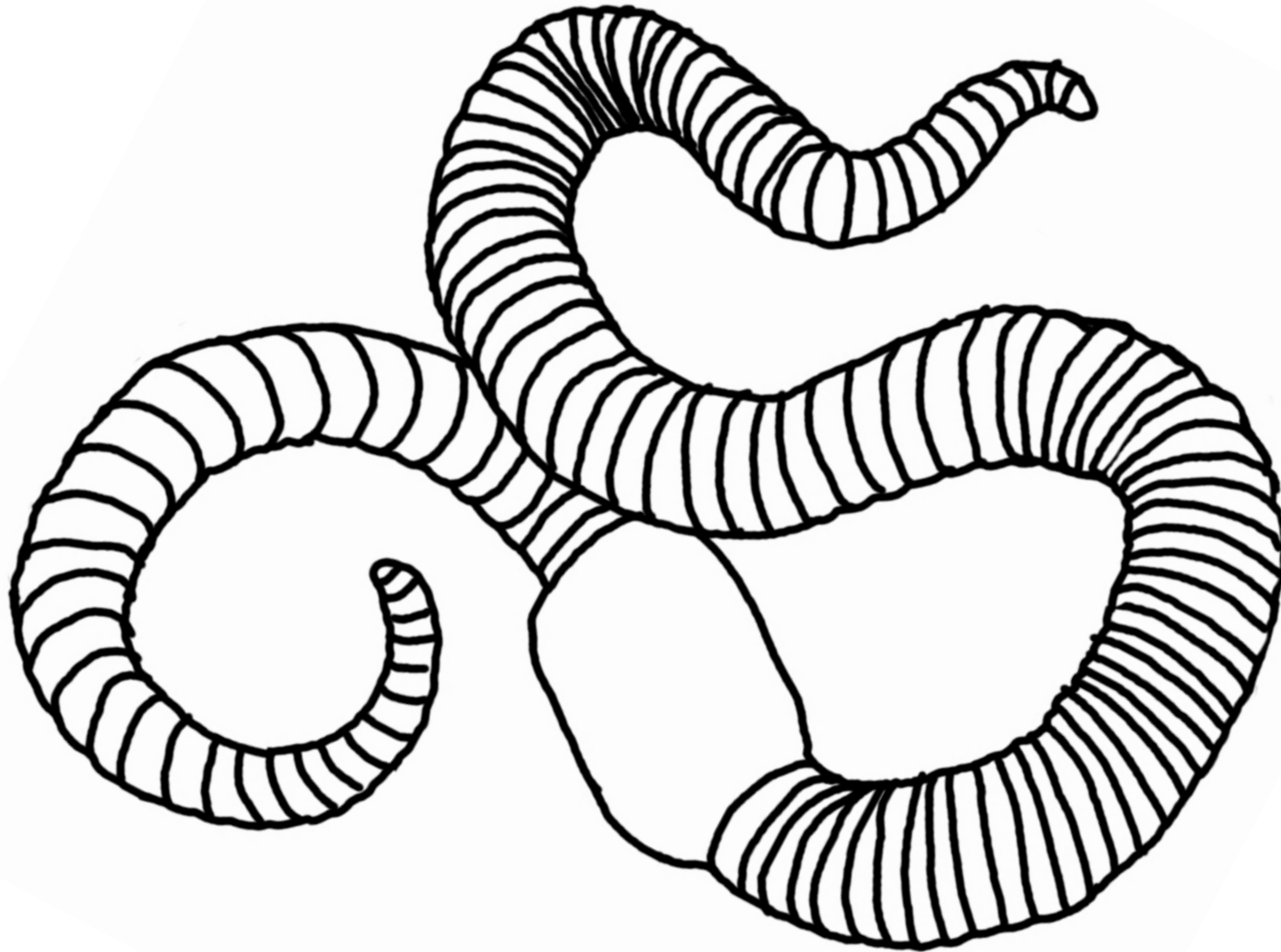
the slug





the earwig


















the earthworm



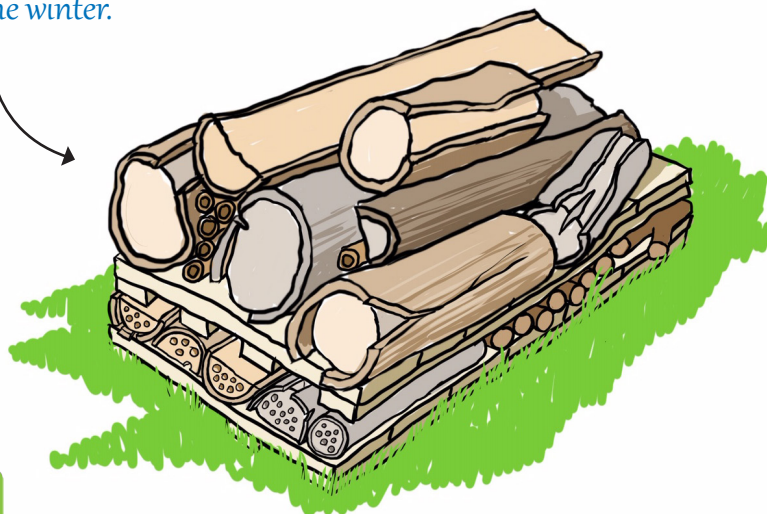
Minibeast Chart

	week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	week 5	week 6
weather →						
	2	5	15	5	10	
	13	21	20	19	9	
	0	0	1	3	0	
	7	12	18	16	64	
	2	0	2	6	28	
	0	1	3	0	5	
	0	0	0	1	0	
	120	lots!	52	94	10	

bug hotel

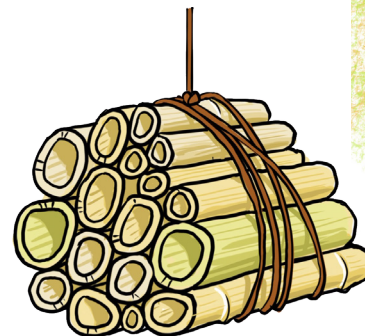
If you want minibeasts to live in your garden, build them a bug hotel! You can make big ones or small ones, like in the pictures.

This bug hotel has lots of logs too. The logs make great homes for reptiles like lizards, skinks and geckoes. They like to hide in there for the winter.

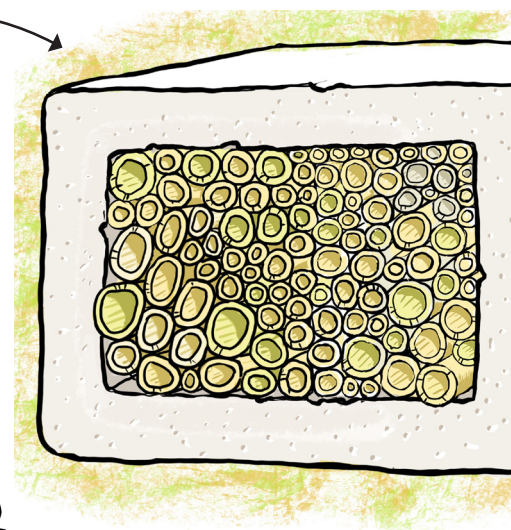


All you need for these simple bug hotels are bits of cane or reed bunched together. Experiment with different sizes of cane and ways of bunching them, find out which the bugs prefer.

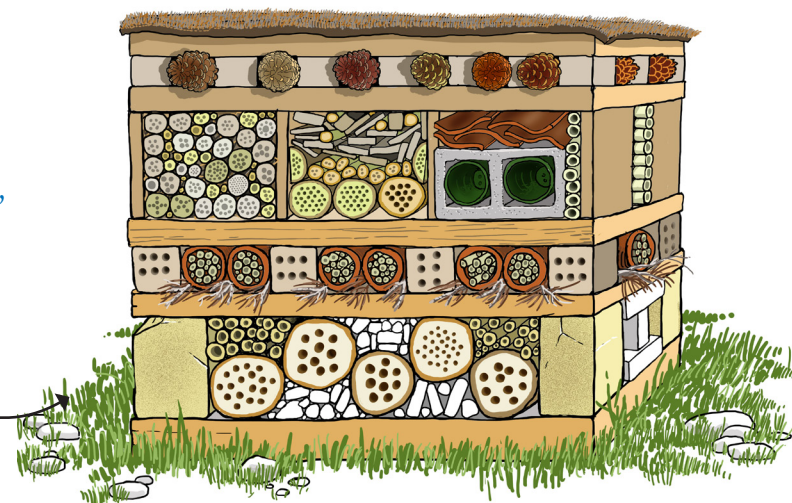
This one can be hung from a tree.



This one is tucked up in a brick.



This bug hotel is really huge! It's made from twigs, stones, sticks of cane, pine cones, bricks, pots and pallets. Wow!



woody homes

If you have a log or a bunch of twigs, don't burn them. Use them to make woody homes for minibeasts. Many minibeasts eat the wood too, so that's home and restaurant too!

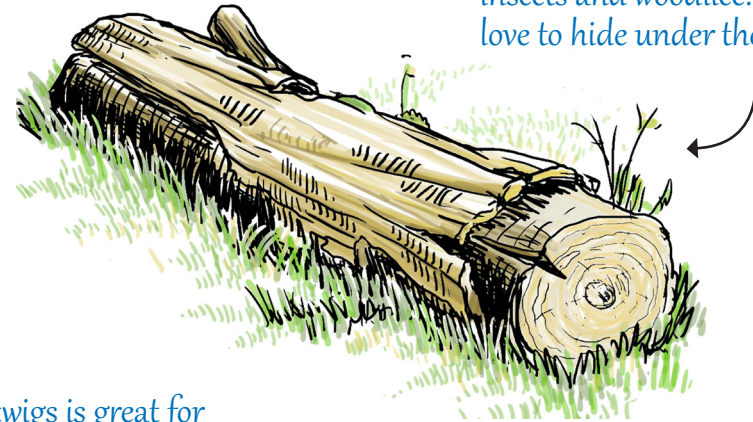
A pile of logs can be great for lizards to hunt for ants. Watch out for mushrooms too.



A pile of twigs is great for minibeasts. Wood does not get too cold in winter, and that's just what lizards and geckoes love.



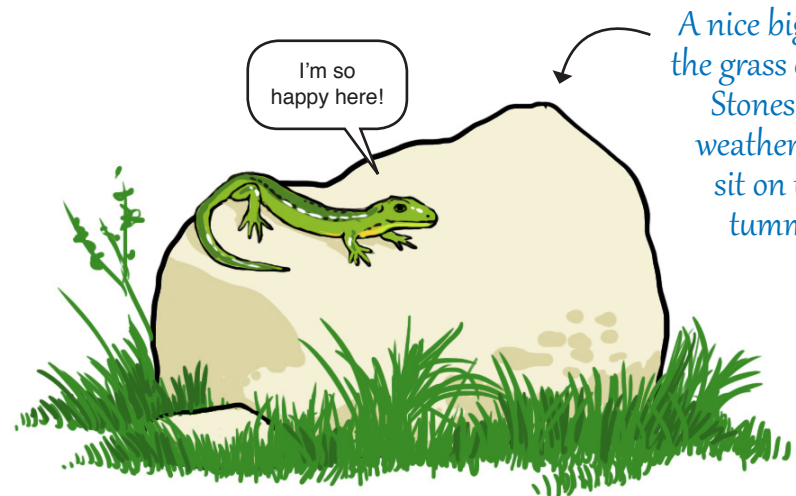
A dead log can be great for insects and woodlice. They love to hide under the bark



stony homes

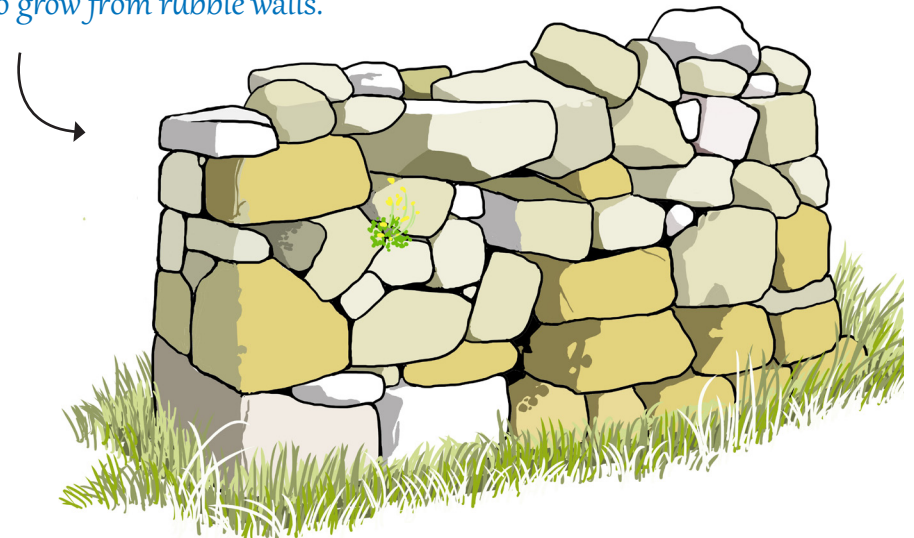
A pile of stones can be a great home for minibeasts and reptiles too.

Many minibeasts don't like light. A pile of stones is a good place where to look for shade under the stones.



A nice big stone standing in the grass can get you lizards. Stones get warm in sunny weather and lizards love to sit on them to warm their tummy! Birds too like to perch on stones.

A rubble wall is a great home for minibeasts and other animals. Snails, lizards, geckoes and even skinks and hedgehogs live there. Many plants too grow from rubble walls.



Animal sounds



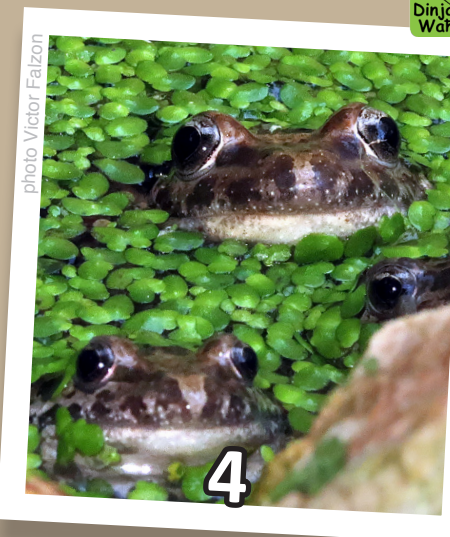
cricket
grillu



robin
pitrross



seagulls
gawwi



frogs
żringijiet



sparrow
għasfur tal-bejt



warbler
bufula



bees
naħal



collared dove
gamiema tal-kullar

**Where sparrows
go to sleep!**

Old Railway Station, Birkirkara

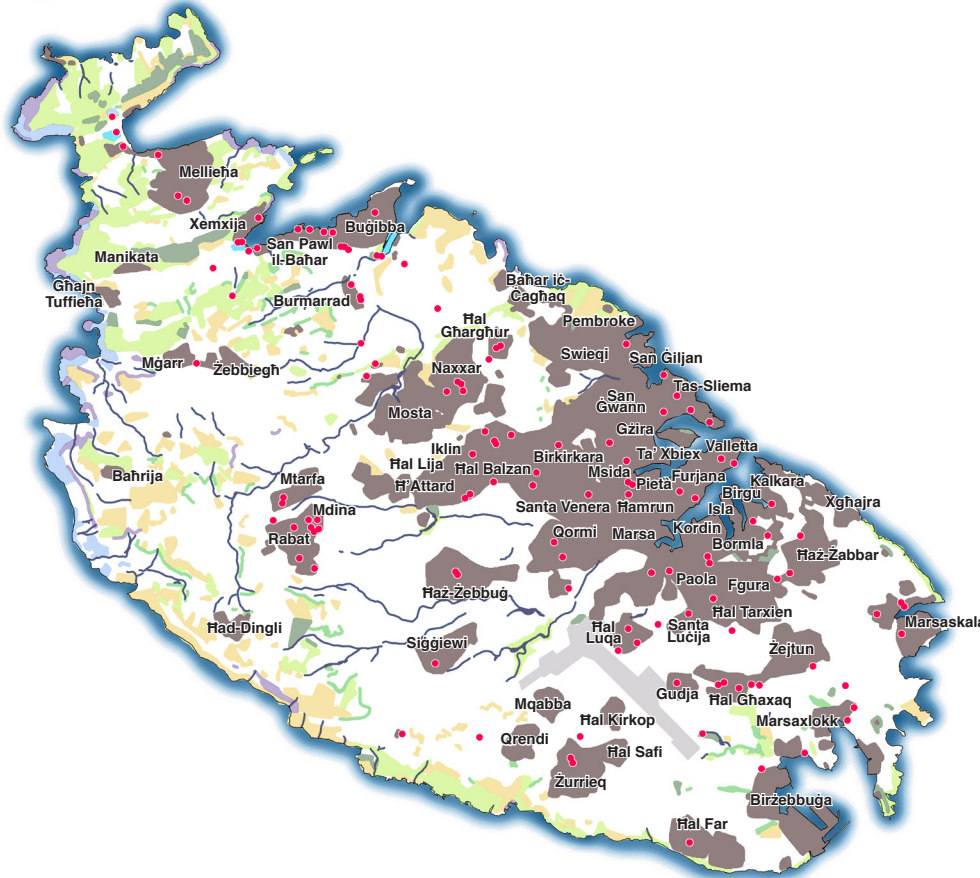




Where sparrows go to sleep!

Each red spot
on the map
is a sparrow
sleeping place.

Are there any
sparrows sleeping in
your town?



Ruby finds a new home

There is a sweet little village called **[invent village name or insert your own]** Every year, a very special guest comes to stay in this village. Her name is Ruby and she's a robin. When she arrives she always says "Tikk. Tikk. Tikitikk. Titikk! **[ask children to repeat the sound]** How happy I am! My children are now grown up and they can fly, and we all came to Malta to spend winter here. We like Malta because it's nice and warm here and we can find food."

Ruby lives in a garden where she can hear the water from a pond **[ask children to make the sound of water]**. She finds food to eat in a tall orange tree. When the wind blows, the leaves go **[ask children to make the sound]**.

Ruby has a friend called Silvia. Silvia is not a robin. She is a warbler and she lives in another orange tree. Ruby and Silvia have fun together. Ruby likes Silvia because warblers can do many voices. When she sees a cat Silvia the warbler calls *tshsh-tshsh-tshsh-tshsh!* to warn Ruby that there is danger **[ask children to make the warning call]**. How easy it is to fly up to the highest branches where the cat cannot reach them! On days with blue skies Ruby feels so happy she sings **[ask children to make bird singing sound]**.

When night falls, Ruby hears the minibests creeping around the dry leaves under the trees and making small sounds with their tiny legs **[ask children to make the sound]**. Then she drops off to sleep listening to their little crackly noises.

In the morning Ruby knows it is time to wake up because she hears the sparrows in the tall trees in the

street wake up and *chirp, chirp, chirp, chirp!* each other good morning **[ask children to make the sound of many sparrows chirping together]**. Ruby hops around the orange tree leaves looking for minibest breakfast. Every time she pops a worm or a fly into her beak she opens and closes her beak enjoying the good food she can find in this garden **[ask children to make the sound of juicy worms and flies being swallowed by Ruby]**. And this is how Ruby spends winter before flying back to her other home across the sea from Malta.

One winter, Ruby flies to Malta as usual to spend the winter in her favourite garden. But Ruby gets a shock: instead of her garden and her orange tree and her friend Silvia, she finds a big ugly block of apartments! Ruby panics, and looks around, calling for Silvia **[invite children to make the cries and panicky sounds]**. Her warbler friend is not there and she has nowhere to rest after her long flight.

Ruby flies and flies. She sees houses and streets everywhere. Ruby is so tired she starts panting **[ask children to make the noise]**. She is scared of everything: **[children now make all the following noises]** the horns of cars, people shouting, doors slamming, large trucks driving and even a police car.

It's getting dark and Ruby is very tired. She lands on a dangerous pavement with noisy cars.

"Oh dear, where shall I sleep tonight? This place is so dangerous, and I'm so tired and hungry."

Suddenly she hears her friend Silvia the warbler calling from far away. She looks up and sees a green place at the end of the road. Ruby flies to the green place: it's a school garden! And Silvia is on top of a bush with nice red berries.

Silvia is so happy to see Ruby and she gives her a big hug.

"I had to fly away from our old garden," said Silvia, "The people there cut down the nice trees and they built apartments. Luckily I found this wonderful primary school. And now you found it too! How nice to have you here!"

"I found it because I heard you calling," said Ruby. "Thank you, Silvia."

Silvia took Ruby's wing and showed her round their new school garden. What a wonderful school this is.

"Look, Ruby! They have a pond, a rubble wall and plants full of juicy berries. And there are minibest homes, and there's a bird table, which the Year 2 children fill with food for us every morning. Isn't that nice! And the children here can make robin voices!"

Ruby was so happy.

"Tikitikk, titikk! Thank you school for giving me such a wonderful home again."

Every year Ruby now returns to the same school and joins her friend Silvia, who lives in the school garden all year round.



Ruby ssib dar ġdida

Hemm raħal żgħir jismu [ivvinta isem jew uża tagħkom stess]. Kull sena f'dan ir-raħal jiġi joqgħod xi hadd speċjali. Jisimha Ruby u hija pitirross. Meta tasal dejjem issemma' lehinha: "Tikk! Tikk! Tikitikk! Titikk! [tfal jagħmlu bħalha] Kemm jien kuntenta hawnhekk! It-tfal tiegħi kibru u tgħallmu jtiru u issa ġejna ngħaddu x-xitwa f'Malta. Malta toghġobna għax ma tagħmilx ħafna kesha fix-xitwa, u xorta nsibu nieklu."

Ruby tgħix fi ġnien fejn tisma' ċ-ċafċif tal-ilma minn vaska [tfal jimitaw il-ħoss tal-ilma]. Issib x'tiekol minn siġra kbira tal-laring. Meta jkun ir-riħ, il-weraq iħaxwex [tfal jimitaw il-ħoss tal-weraq].

Ruby għandha ħabiba jisimha Silvia. Silvia mhix pitirross. Hija bufula u tgħid f'siġra oħra tal-laring. Ruby u Silvia jieħdu ħafna pjaċir flimkien. Ruby tħobb tisma' lil Silvia għax Silvia taf tagħmel ħafna lehnijiet. Meta tara qattusa ġejja, Silvia l-bufula tibda tagħmel txxx-txxx-txxx-txxx! biex tavża lil Ruby li ġej il-periklu [tfal jimitaw il-ħoss]. Imbagħad it-tnejn itiru fl-iktar zkuk għoljin tas-siġra, fejn il-qattusa ma tilhaqhomx! Meta tkun ġurnata bnazzi Ruby tibda tgħanni [tfal jagħmlu tpepsis tal-għasafar].

Meta jidlam, Ruby toqgħod tisma' l-ħsejjes tal-animalli żgħar tal-ħamrija huma u mixjin fuq il-weraq niexef b'dawk il-ħafna saqajn żgħar [tfal jimitaw il-ħoss]. U fl-aħħar Ruby tmur għajna biha u torqod.

Filgħodu Ruby tqum għax tisma' l-għasafar tal-bejt ipespsu bejniethom [tfal jimitaw it-tpepsis tal-għasafar]. Ruby tinzel fl-art tfittex qalb il-weraq biex issib xi dudu x'tiekol għall-kolazzjoni (breakfast). Kull darba li ssib dudu jew dubbiena taqbadhom f'munqarha u

tiblagħhom [tfal jagħmlu ħoss ta' xi hadd qed jibla'!]. U hekk Ruby tgħaddi x-xitwa Malta, imbagħad fir-rebbiegħa ttir lura lejn pajjiż ieħor bogħod minn Malta.

Darba waħda ġiet il-ħarifa u Ruby bħas-soltu taret lejn Malta biex tgħaddi x-xitwa fil-ġnien favorit tagħha. Imma meta waslet ħadet qatgħa kbira, għax flok sabet il-ġnien bil-laring u lil Silvia l-bufula issa sabet blokk bini ikrah.

Ruby bdiet tippanikja u bdiet tħares madwarha u ssejjaħ lil Silvia [tfal jagħmlu ilħna ta' paniku u biża']. Il-bufula ħabiba ma kinitx hemm u Ruby ma kellha mkien fejn tistrieħ wara dak il-vjaġġ twil.

Ruby bdiet ittir 'l hawn u 'l hemm. Madwarha kullimkien djar u toroq. Ruby għejjiet u bdiet taqta' nifisha [tfal jagħmlu ħoss ta' nifs mgħaġġel]. Bdiet tibza' minn kull ħoss: [tfal jimitaw il-ħsejjes li ġejjin] ħornijiet ta' karożzi, niex jgħajtu, bibieb jinstabtu, trakkijiet għaddejin, karożza tal-pulizija.

Beda jidlam u Ruby kienet għajjiena ħafna. Ruby niżlet fuq bankina b'ħafna karożzi storbużi għaddejin sparati.

"X'biża', fejn ħa norqod illeja? Dal-post veru periklu, għandi l-ġuħ u għajjiena mejta!"

Dak il-ħin Ruby semgħet it-tpepsis tal-ħabiba tagħha Silvia ġej mill-bogħod. Ruby ħarset u rat post bil-ħdura f'tarf it-triq. Ruby taret lejn dan il-post. Kienet skola bil-ġnien. U rat lil Silvia fuq arbuxxell mimli bil-frott.

Kemm ferħet Silvia meta rat lill-ħabiba tagħha Ruby, u taret lejha u għannqitha.

"Kelli nitlaq mill-ġnien li kellna qabel," qalet Silvia, "In-nies qatgħu dawk is-siġar sbieħ u bnew ħafna bini ikrah. Imma b'xorti tajba sibt din l-iskola primarja veru ħelwa. U issa inti wkoll sibtha. Kemm qed nieħu gost li inti wkoll qiegħda hawn."

"Jien sibtha għax smajt lilek tpepsis," qaltilha Ruby, "Grazzi Silvia."

Silvia qabdet lil Ruby mill-ġewnaħ u ħaditha dawra mal-ġnien tal-iskola. Xi ġmiel ta' skola.

"Ara, Ruby, għandhom vaska, ħajt tas-sejjeħ u pjanti mimlijin bil-frott. Għandhom djar għall-minibeasts, u hawn ukoll bird table. Kull filgħodu t-tfal tal-Year 2 joħorġu jferrxu l-ikel għalina! Mhux tajjeb hekk? U t-tfal hawnhekk tgħallmu jagħmlu l-lehen tal-pitirrossi wkoll."

Ruby ferħet ħafna.

"Tikitikk, titikk! Grazzi skola talli tajtni post sabiħ fejn ngħix."

Ruby baqgħet tmur f'dik l-iskola kull ħarifa, u hemmhekk tiltaqa' mal-ħabiba tagħha Silvia, li tgħix fil-ġnien is-sena kollha.

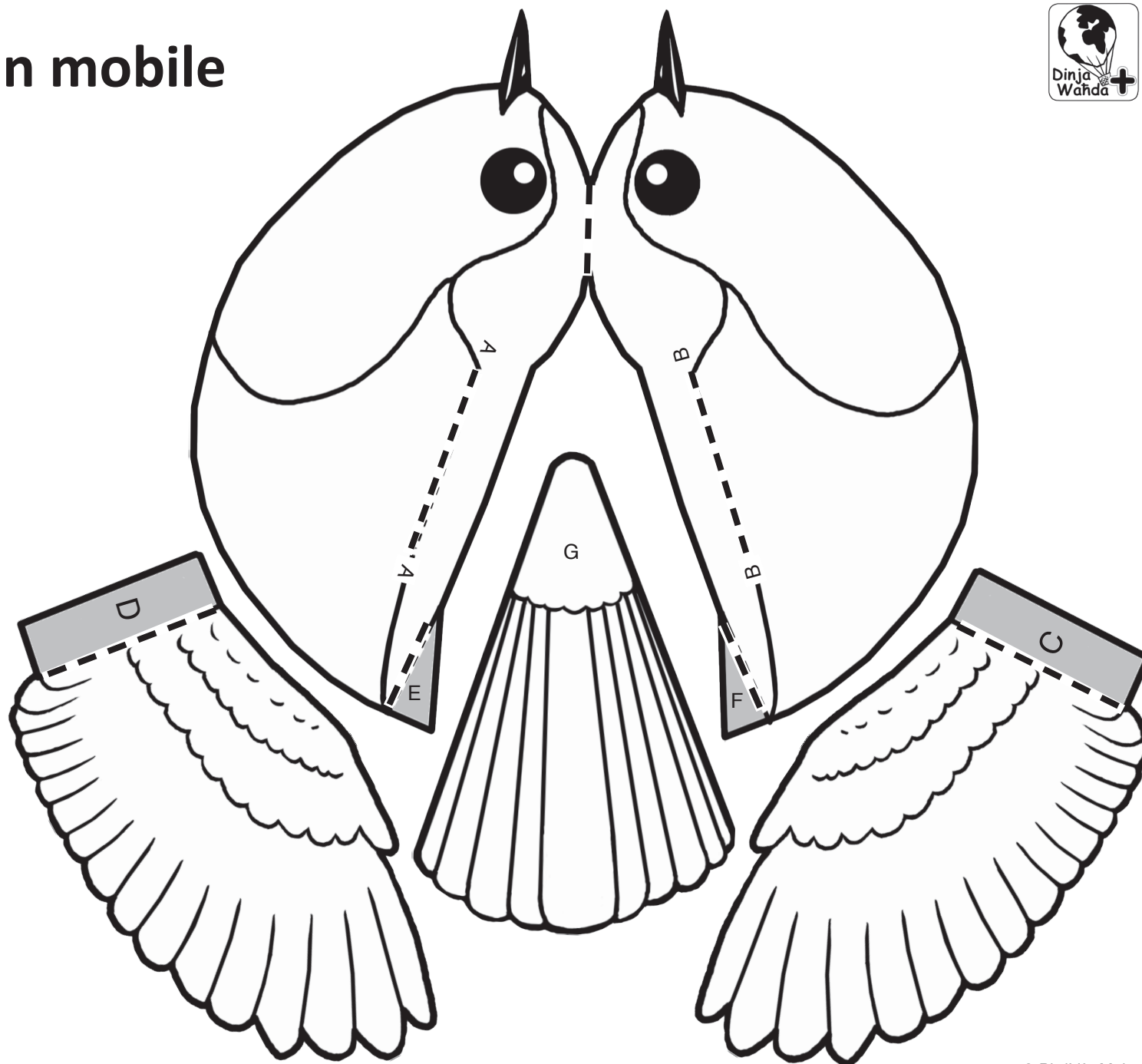




Let's make a robin mobile

Here's how...

- 1 Copy the page and colour the parts: back + wings + tail = brown
face + breast = orange
belly = leave white
- 2 Stick the sheet to a piece of recycled card, e.g. cereal carton.
- 3 Cut out the four pieces.
- 4 With a cutting knife, make slits through dotted lines A–A and B–B.
- 5 Push the wing flaps through the cuts: C through A–A, and D through B–B.
- 6 Fold down the grey wingflaps and stick to the body.
- 7 Fold the main body parts down along the dotted line on the head.
- 8 Fold out the small triangular flaps E and F, which together form a bigger triangle.
- 9 Stick the rest of the two body parts together, and stick the tail (at G) to the tail-flaps E and F.
- 10 That's it! Hang the mobile somewhere, preferably in a group and at different heights.





This is a
Dinja Waħda
school



This is a
Dinja Waħda
class





Din skola
Dinja Waħda



Din klassi
Dinja Waħda