



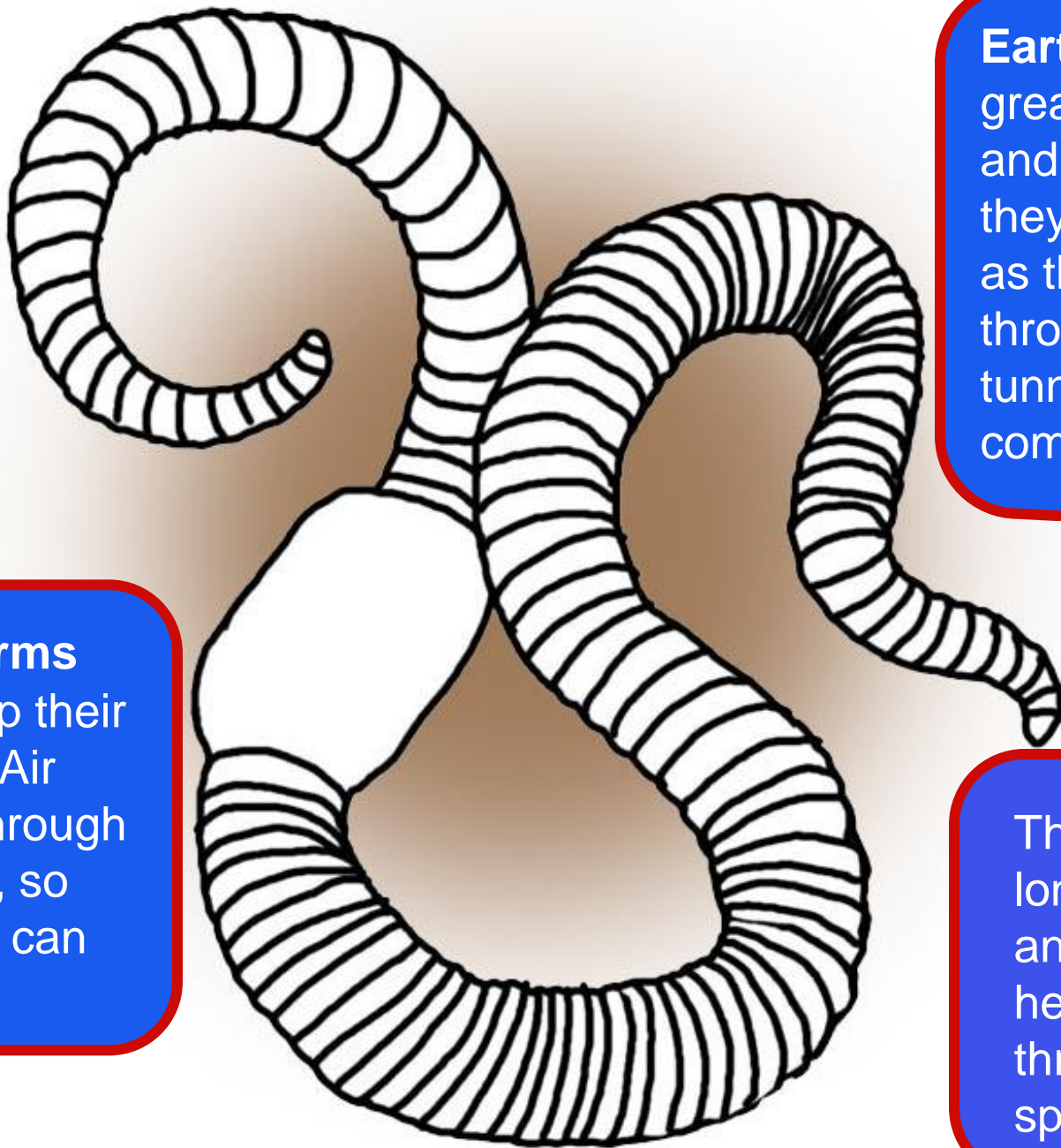
Minibeast Minifacts





Hi! I'm an
Earthworm.
My Maltese name is
Hanex.
Read about me in
the next
slide...

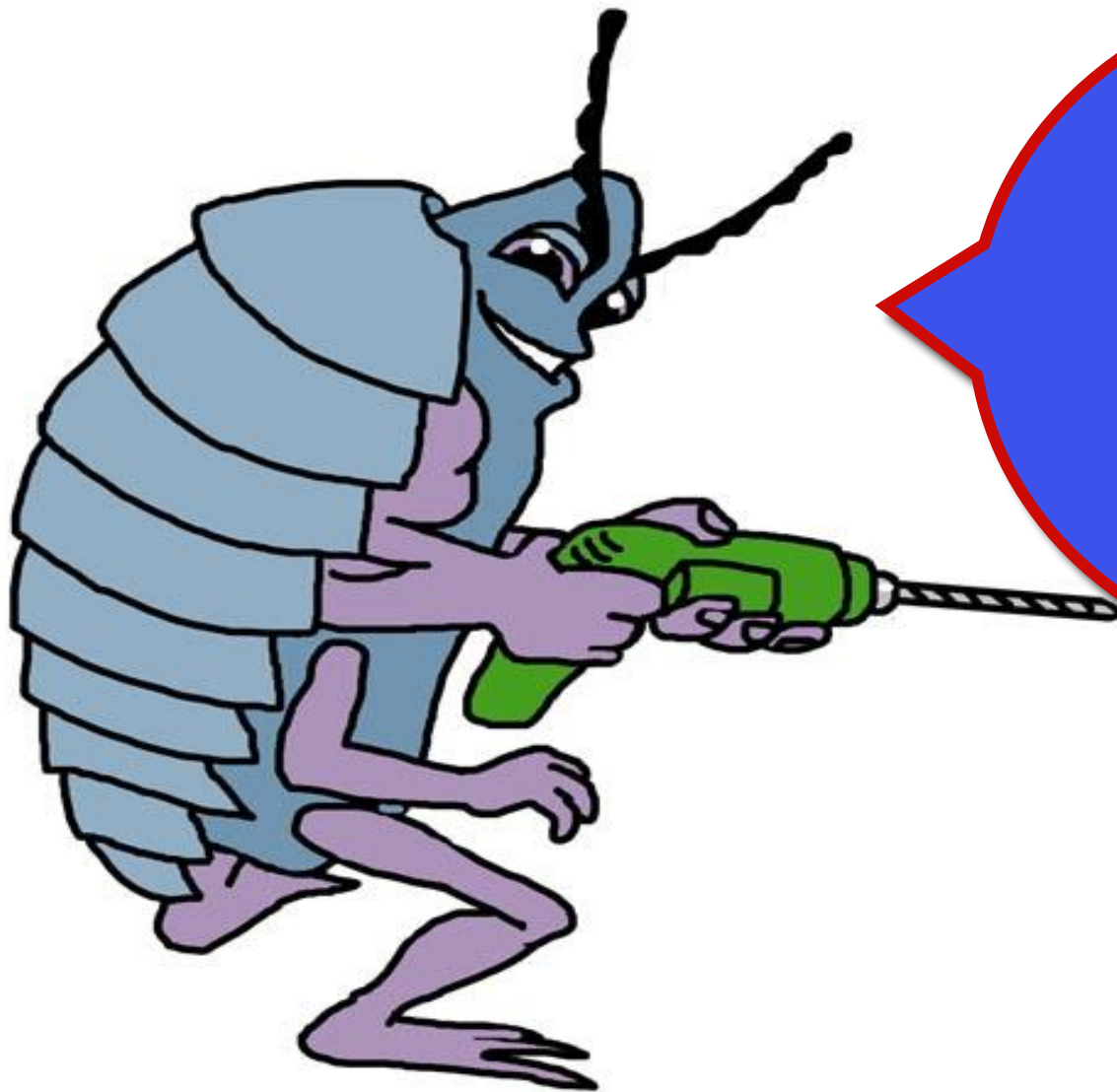




Earthworms are great for compost and soil because they make tunnels as they pass through it. The tunnels give compost air.

Earthworms must keep their skin wet. Air passes through their skin, so the worm can breathe.

The worm is long, slippery and flexible to help it pass through tiny spaces

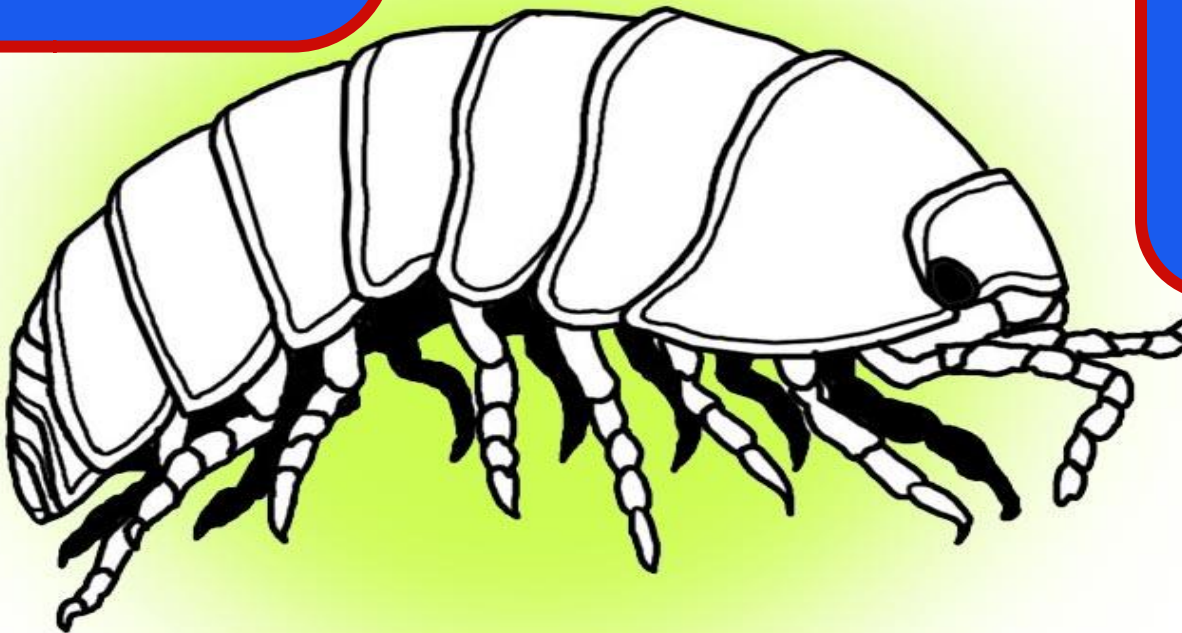


Hi! I'm a
Woodlouse.
My Maltese
name is
Hanzir l-Art.
Read about me in
the next
slide...

Woodlice need damp habitats. The compost heap is an excellent home for them. They live for about two years and make compost from dead vegetation.

Woodlice have hard plates on their back. They can roll into a ball to protect themselves.

Woodlice use their antennae to feel their way around. Their eyes only see light and dark.



Hi! I'm an
Ant.

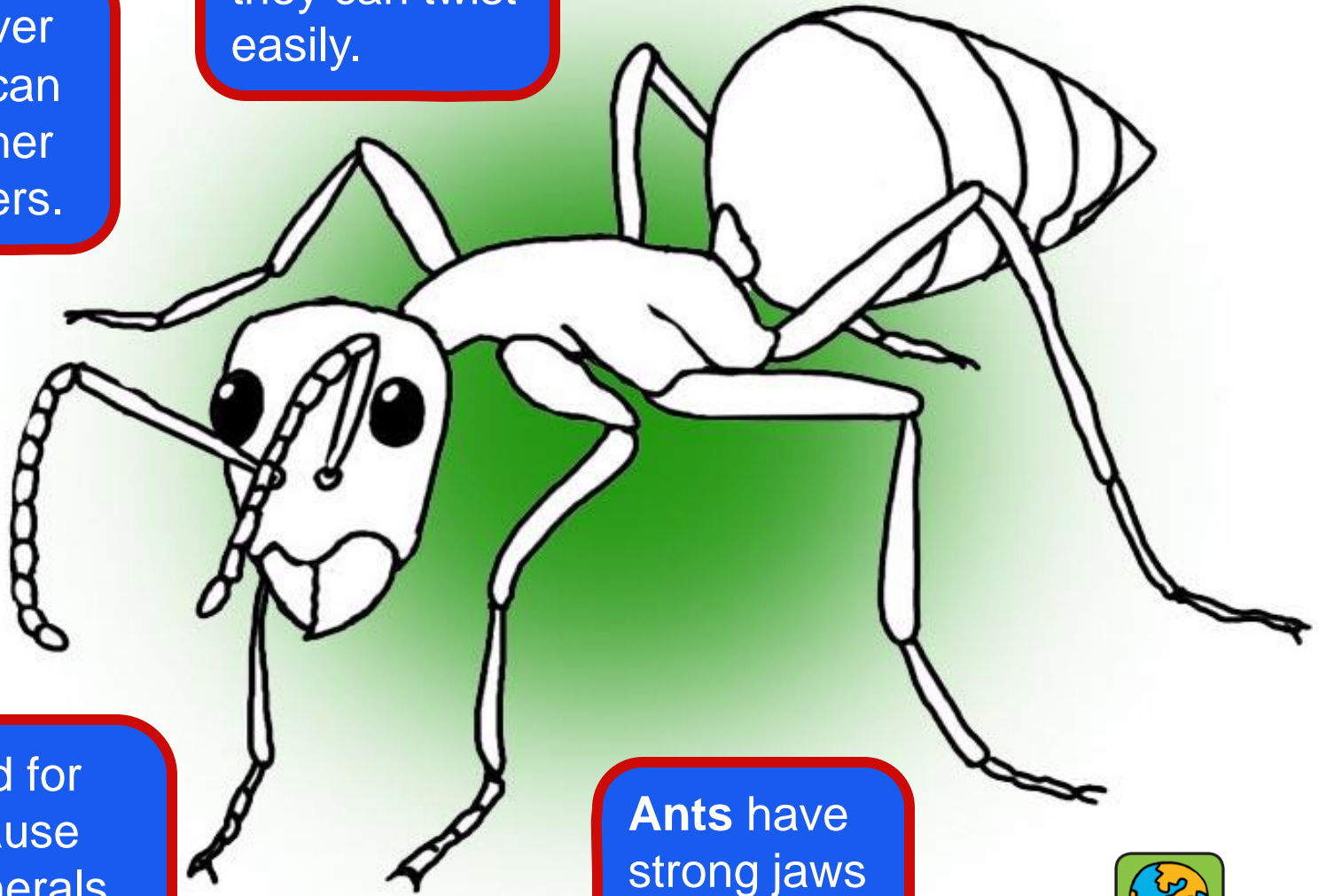
My Maltese name
is **Nemla.**

Read about me
in the next
slide...



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

They have tiny waists so they can twist easily.



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

Ants have strong jaws for cutting food.





Hi! I'm
an **Earwig**.
My Maltese
name is **Mqass**.
Read about me
in the next
slide...

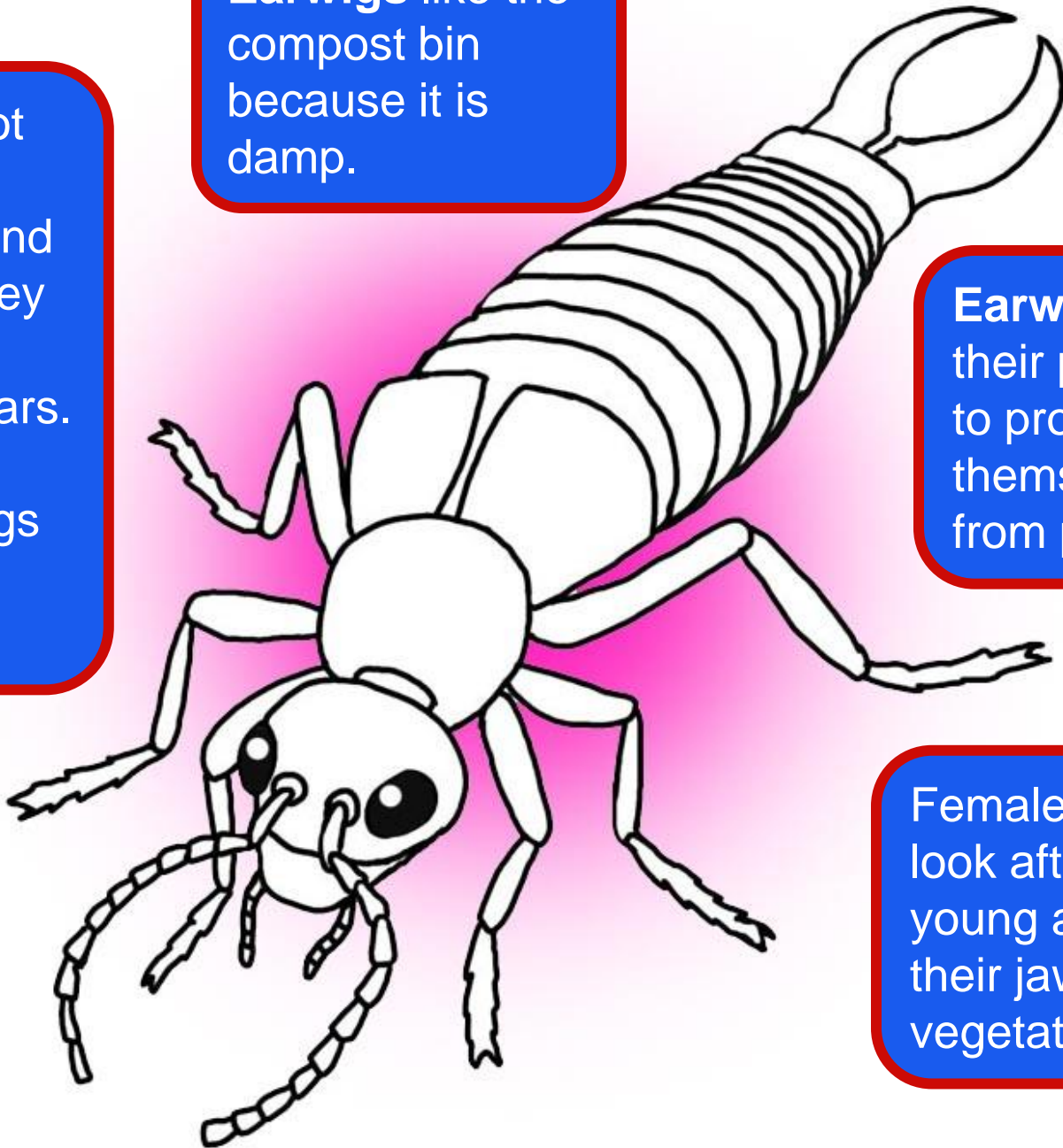


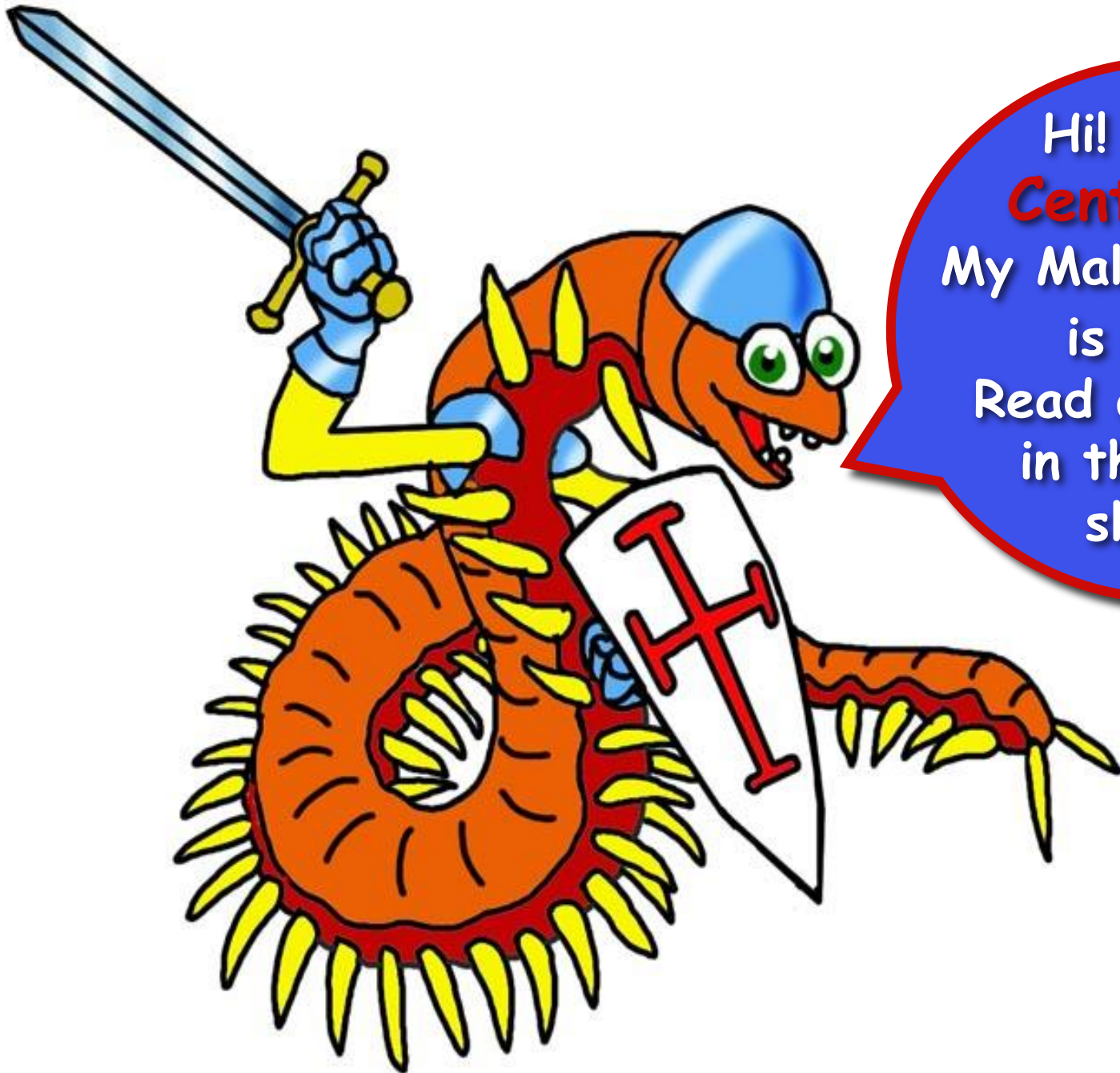
Earwigs got their name from a legend that said they crawl into people's ears. This is not true. Earwigs don't hurt people.

Earwigs like the compost bin because it is damp.

Earwigs use their pincers to protect themselves from predators.

Female **earwigs** look after their young and use their jaws to cut vegetation.

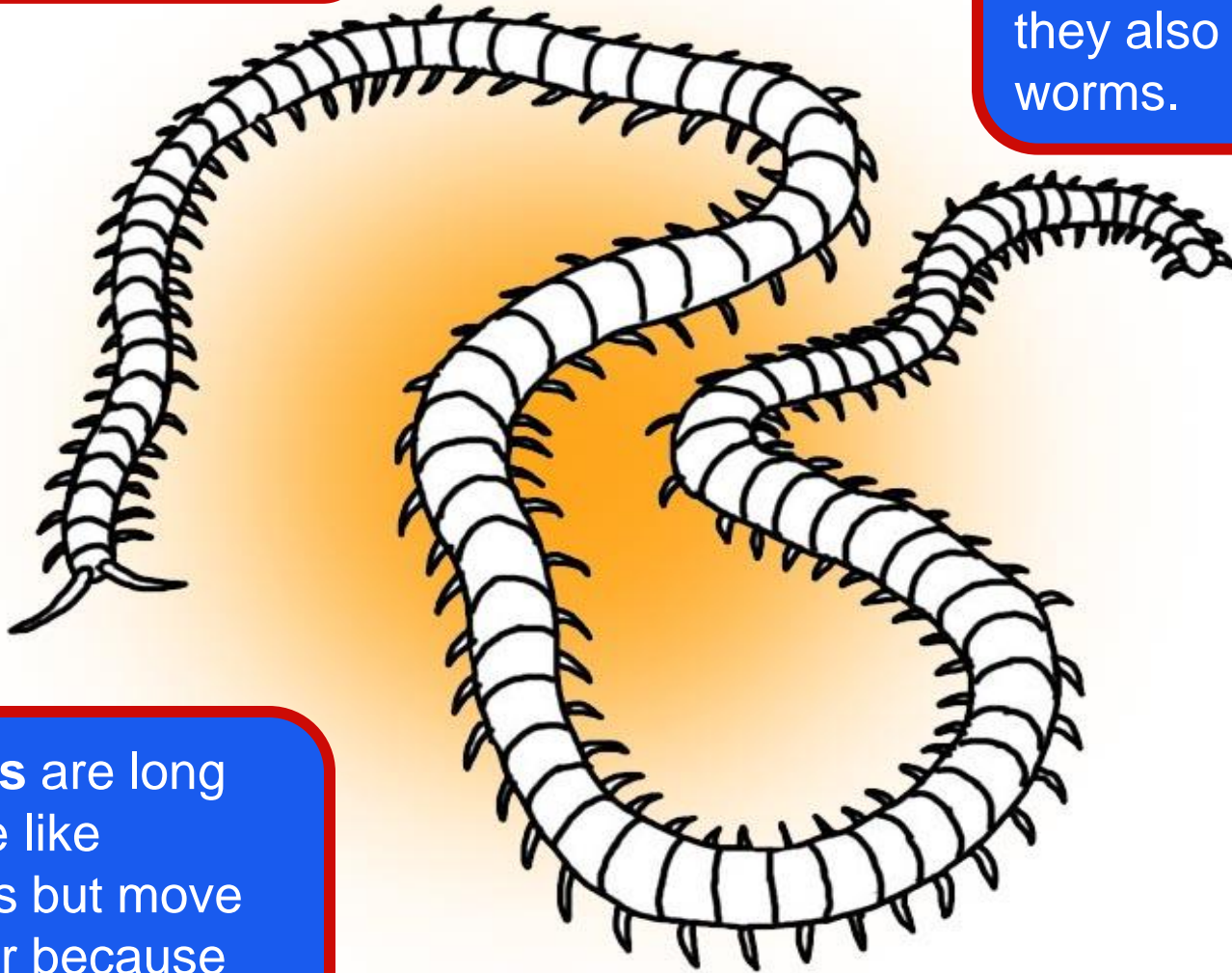




Hi! I'm a
Centipede.
My Maltese name
is **Xini**.
Read about me
in the next
slide...

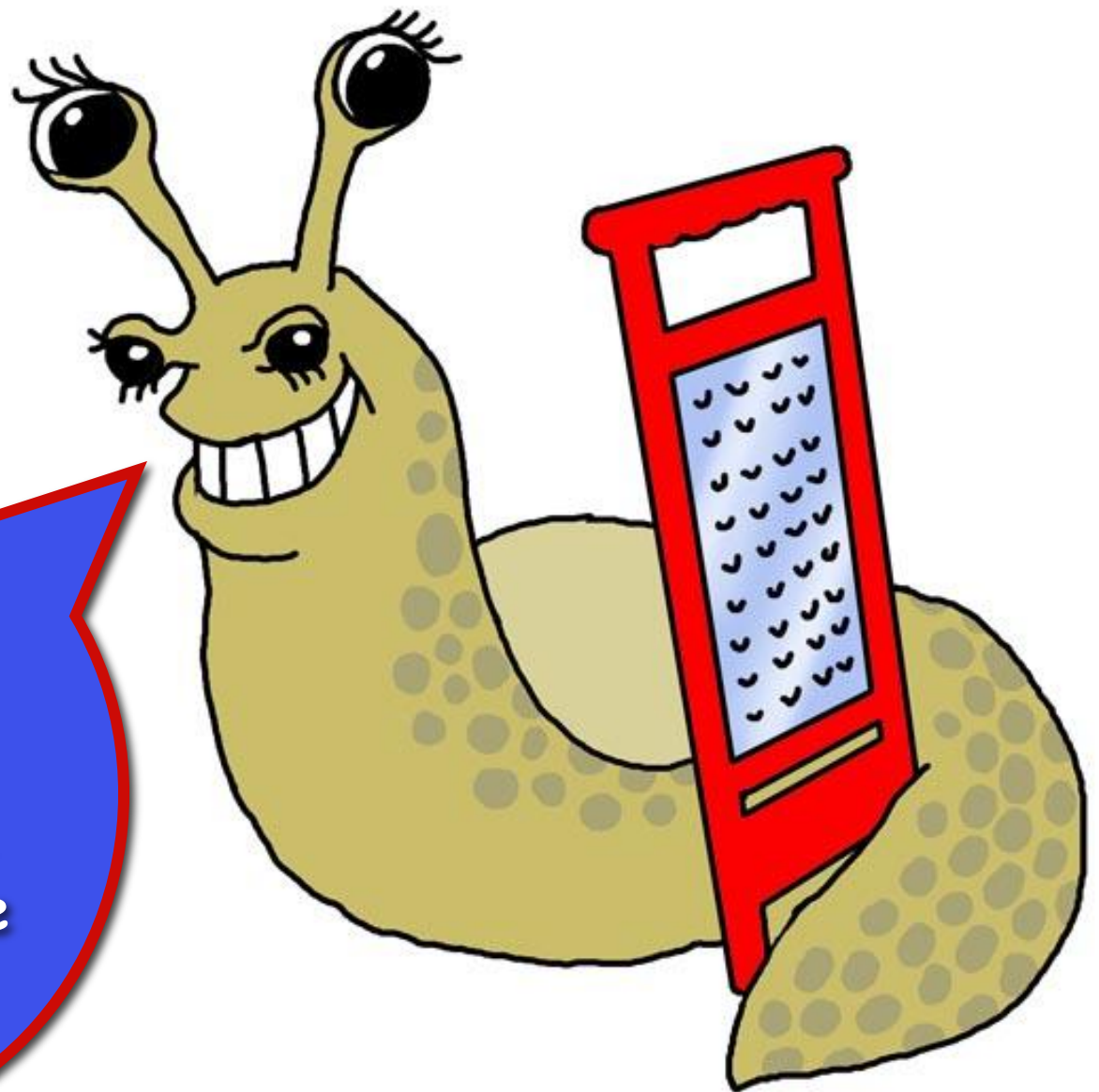
Centipedes need to stay in damp places or their skin will dry out.

Centipedes eat vegetation in the compost bin, but they also eat worms.



Centipedes are long and flexible like earthworms but move much faster because they have many legs.





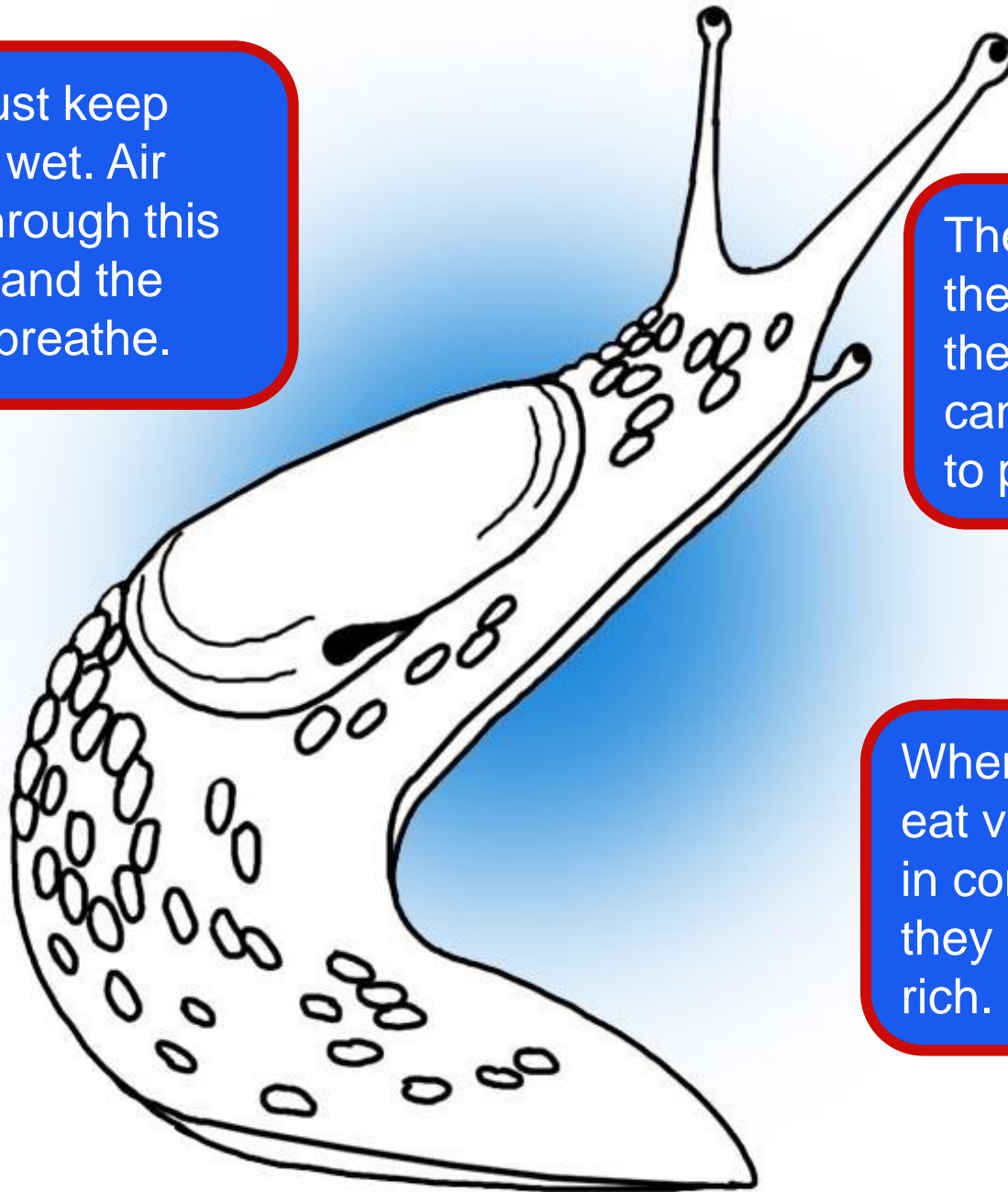
Hi! I'm
a **Slug**.
My Maltese
name is
Bugħarwien.
Read about me
in the next
slide...

Slugs must keep their skin wet. Air passes through this wet skin, and the slug can breathe.

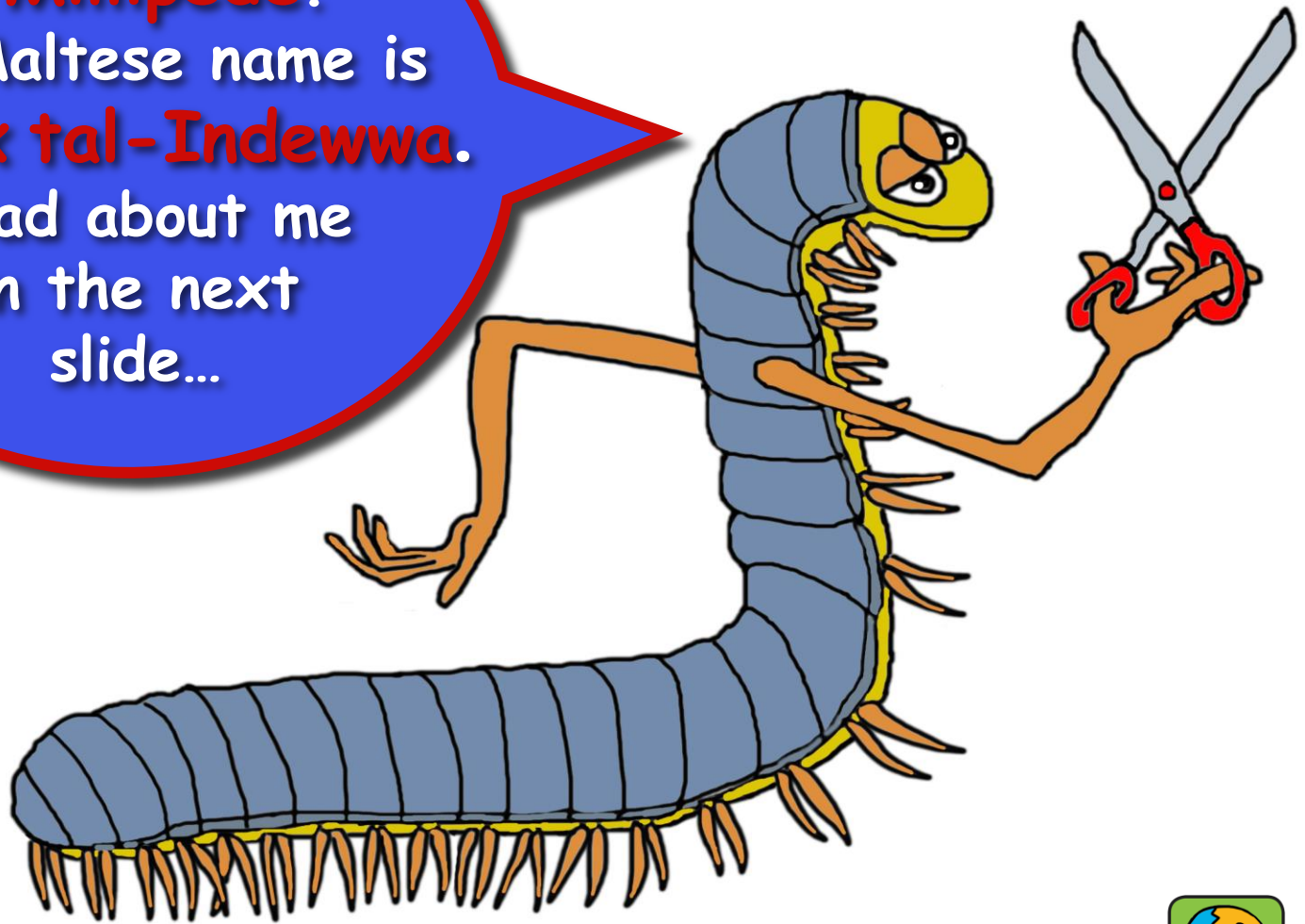
Their eyes feel the world around them and they can pull them in to protect them.

Slugs have very strong skin and they can crawl over anything.

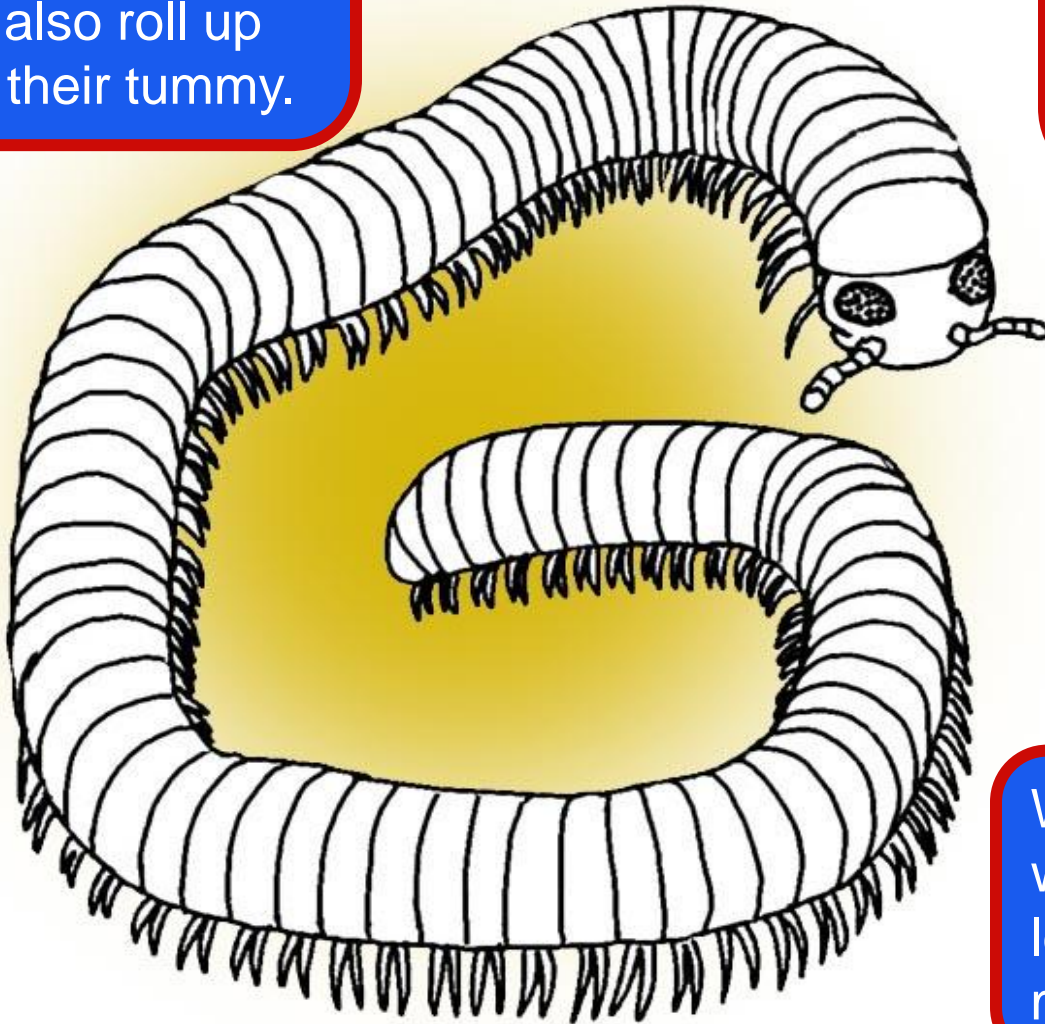
When **slugs** eat vegetables in compost, they make it rich.



Hi! I'm
a **Millipede**.
My Maltese name is
Hanex tal-Indewwa.
Read about me
in the next
slide...



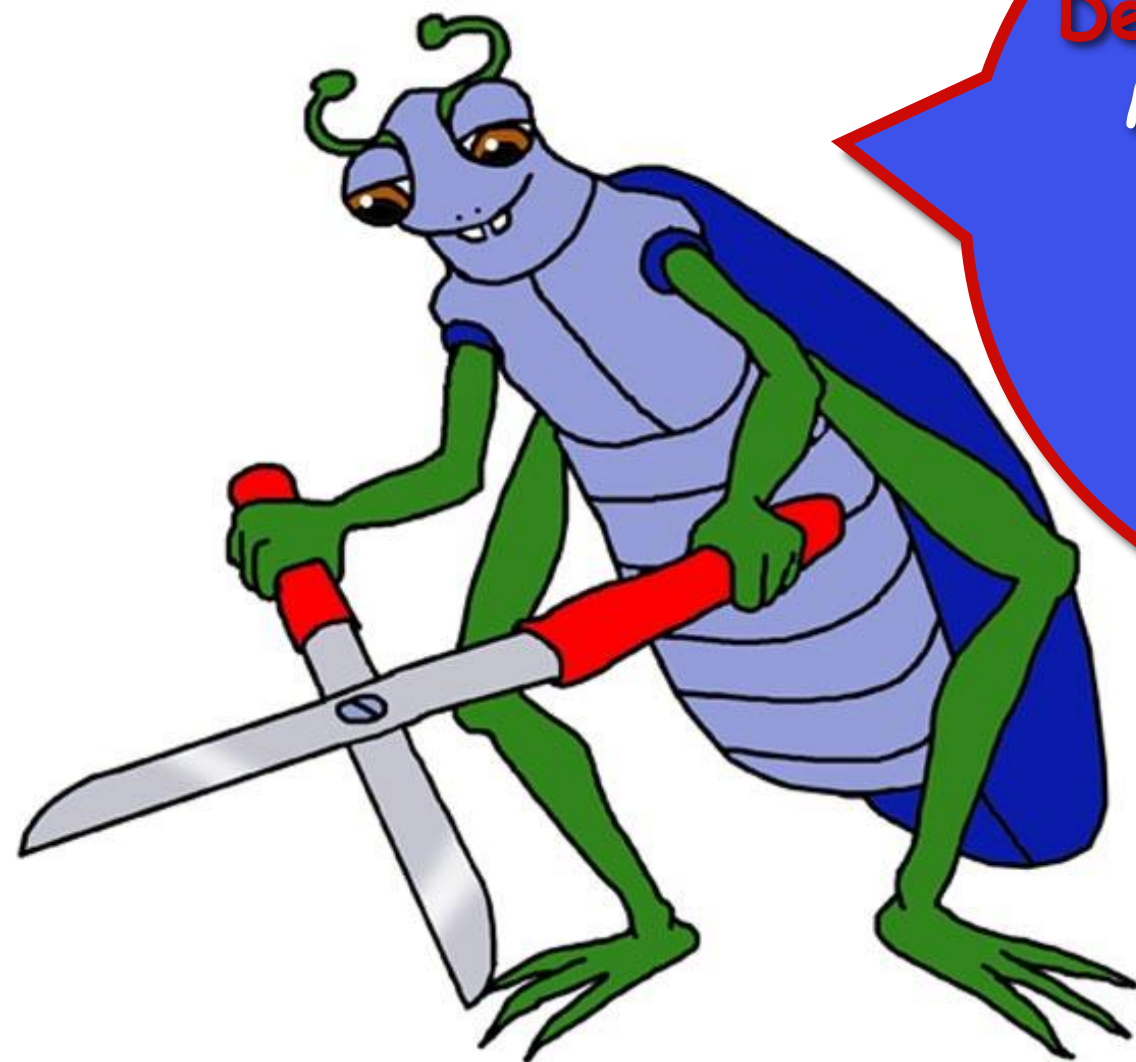
Millipedes have a hard skin to protect them from predators. They can also roll up to protect their tummy.



Millipedes are very important in compost. They eat vegetation and break it down into compost.

They have eyes but don't see well and use their feelers to feel their way.

Watch **millipedes** walk: they lift their legs in pairs and move like waves.



Hi! I'm a
Devil's Coach Horse.
My Maltese name is
Katarina Gholli
Denbek.

Read about me
in the next
slide...

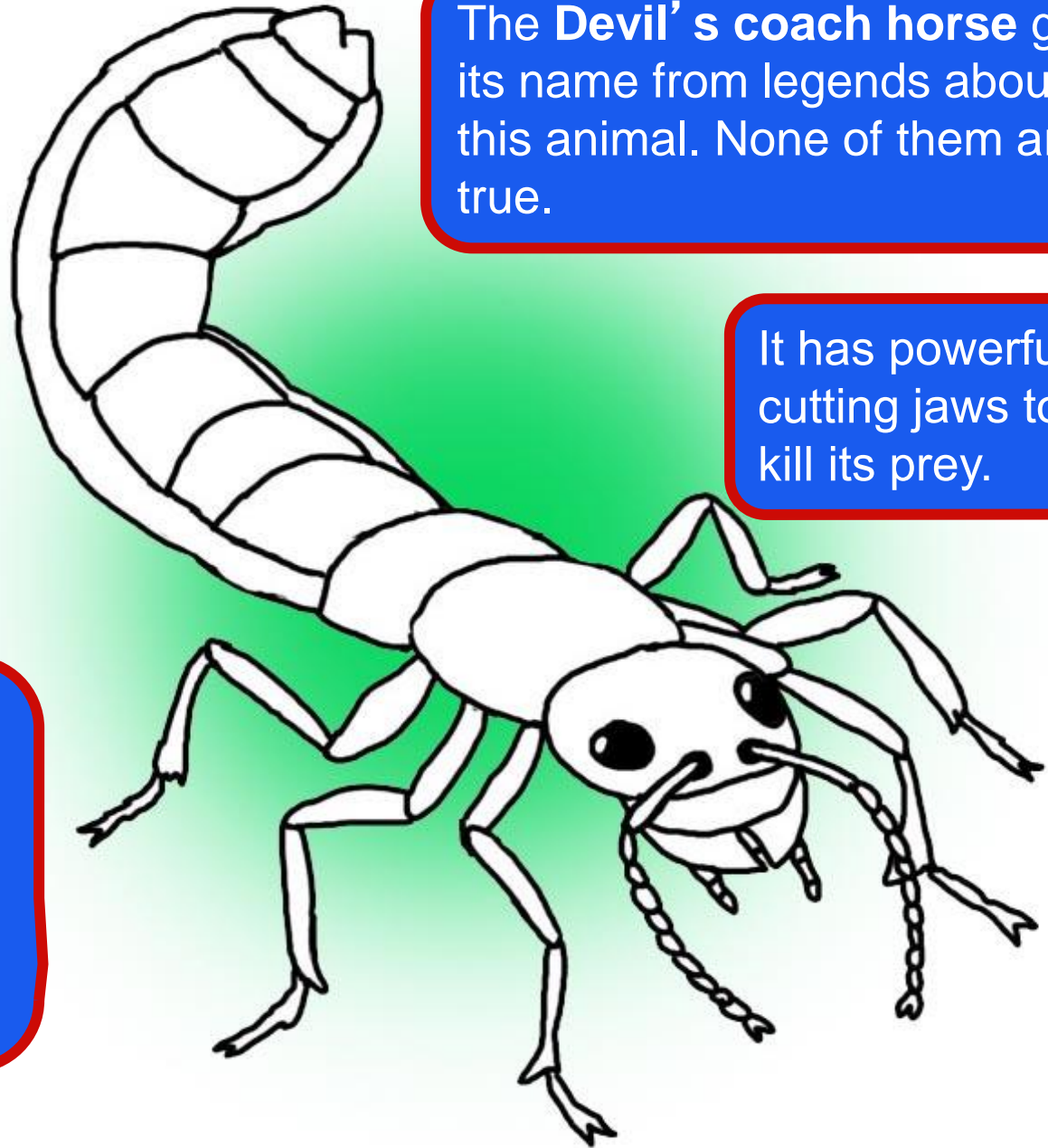


It has strong back muscles which can raise the animal's tail. It does this to look scary when a predator is close.

The **Devil's coach horse** got its name from legends about this animal. None of them are true.

It has powerful cutting jaws to kill its prey.

You can find this insect in compost but it doesn't *make* compost. It eats other animals that do!





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Text: Desirée Falzon Illustrations: Victor Falzon