Invertebrates

Animals can be classified as either Vertebrates or Invertebrates.

Vertebrates

- Vertebrates are animals that have a backbone inside their bodies.
- Vertebrate groups include fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

Invertebrates

- Animals without a backbone are called invertebrates.

Some invertebrate groups include:

- Insects 
- Spiders 
- Mollusks 
- spiny-skinned 

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- worms 
- sponges 

Most invertebrates have exoskeletons.

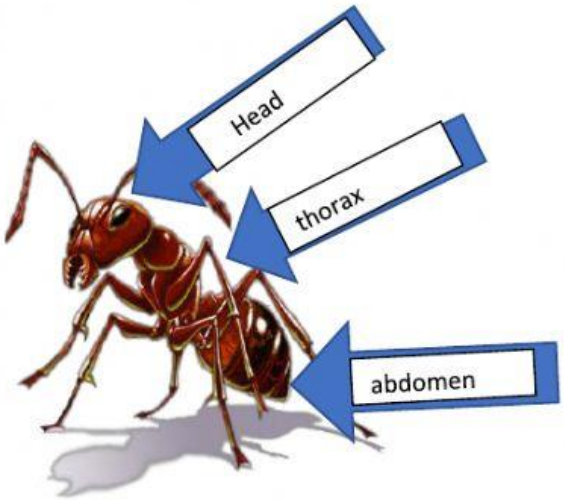
- An **exoskeleton** is a hard outer covering that protects an animal's body, prevents it from drying out and gives it support. The exoskeleton is hard and cannot bend.

Insects and spiders are invertebrates that belong to the group called **arthropods**.

What are the differences and similarities?

Insects

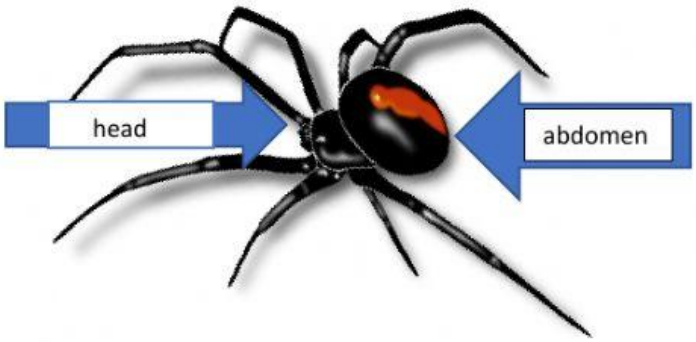
- Insects have three body segments:
- head, thorax and abdomen
- six legs.



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Spiders

- Spiders have two body segments
- head and abdomen
- eight legs.



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