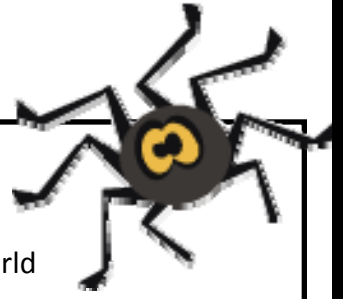


Arthropods



Spiders, insects, centipedes, mites, ticks, lobsters, crabs, shrimp, crayfish, krill, barnacles, and scorpions are all arthropods. 85% of all known animals in the world are arthropods. All arthropods share four **characteristics**. First, they all have a **segmented** body. Spiders have two segments. Flies have three segments. Centipedes can have anywhere from 15 to 177 segments! Second, they have many jointed **limbs**. Spiders have 8 limbs. Millipedes can have hundreds. Third, all arthropods have an **exoskeleton** which protects their internal organs. This exoskeleton is soft when arthropods are born, but soon hardens into an armor-like covering. This covering, which is shed and replaced **periodically** as the arthropod grows, is necessary because as **invertebrates**, arthropods do not have a backbone. Finally, all arthropods are cold-blooded, meaning that they cannot **regulate** their own body temperature. The temperature of their body depends on the temperature of their environment.

DIRECTIONS: Circle the best meaning for each bold-faced word from the passage. Then write the clues from the passage that helped you choose the correct meaning.

1. **Characteristics** means: A. feature B. part

CLUES: _____

2. **Segment** means: A. part B. hard

CLUES: _____

3. **Limbs** means: A. branch B. arm or leg

CLUES: _____

4. **Exoskeleton** means: A. exterior skeleton B. without a skeleton

CLUES: _____

5. **Periodically** means: A. from time to time B. always

CLUES: _____

6. **Invertebrates** means: A. no backbone B. no skeleton

CLUES: _____

7. **Regulate** means: A. supervise B. control

CLUES: _____