

Spiders & Insects

# Grasshoppers

Written by Sarah J. Keller



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**A grasshopper is a large insect. It has two antennae, four wings, and six legs.**

**Grasshoppers can jump far with their two long hind legs.**

4.



**A grasshopper has a common insect body. Its head has eyes, a mouth, and two antennae for sensing motion. Its thorax has wings and legs. Its abdomen has organs for breathing, digesting food, and reproducing.**

**6.**



**A male grasshopper can rub its wings or back legs together to make a loud noise. This noise attracts females and keeps other males away.**

**8.**



**Most grasshoppers are long and thin. One kind of grasshopper is so thin it looks like a stick. Some are short and fat.**

**10.**





**The smallest grasshopper is less than one inch long. The largest grasshopper is more than six inches long. All grasshoppers have wings twice as wide as their body is long.**

12.



**All grasshoppers go through a simple life cycle. The female grasshopper lays eggs. Nymphs hatch from the eggs. The nymphs shed their skin three to five times before they become adult grasshoppers.**

14.





**Grasshoppers eat many kinds of plants. Some grasshoppers, like locusts, can eat an entire field of crops. Heavy rains create swarms of locusts. The more it rains, the more they eat, and the more they reproduce.**

16.



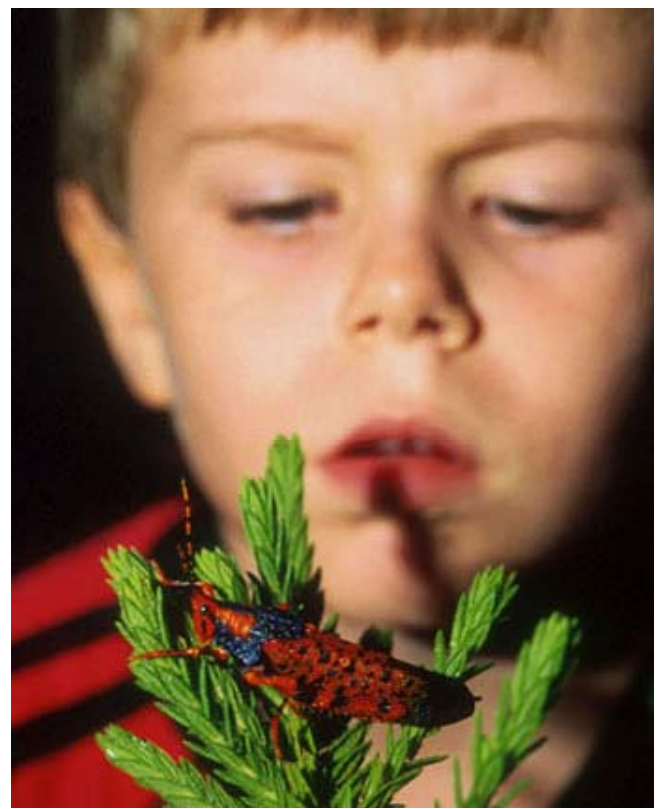
**Grasshoppers are hard for their enemies to see. They blend in with the leaves they eat. They can also jump high and fly fast to escape enemies.**

18.



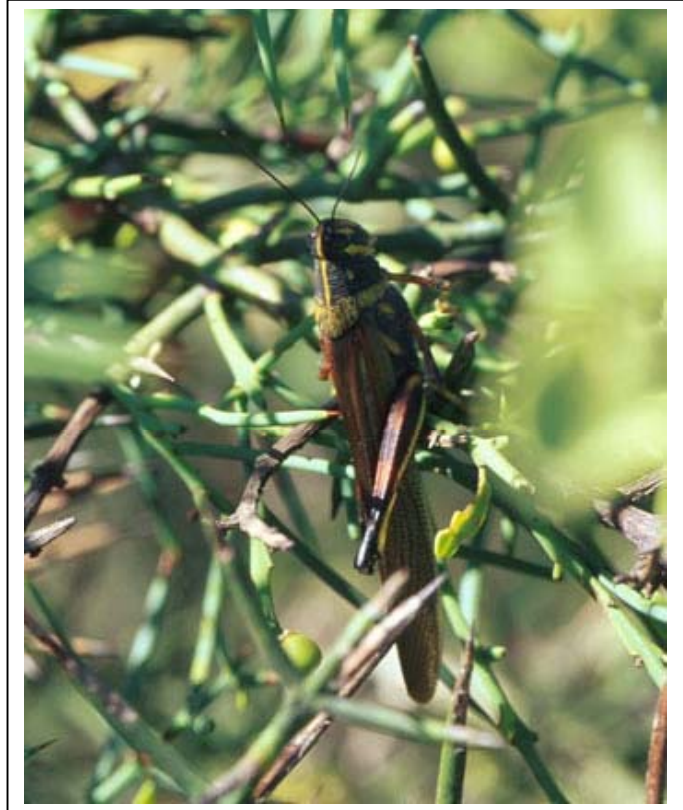
**Grasshoppers taste bad! They can also spit up their food, called “tobacco juice”, to defend themselves.**

20.



**Grasshoppers can live in fields, deserts, gardens, or trees. Some grasshoppers live in jungles and in the rain forests. Maybe grasshoppers live near you!**

22.



## **Glossary**

**abdomen – stomach of an animal**

**antennae – a pair of long thin feelers on the head of some animals**

**digesting – the changing of food in the body to energy**

**insect- a small animal with six legs and three body parts and maybe wings**

**locust – type of grasshopper that eat fields of food**

**nymph – the part of the grasshopper that hatches from the egg**

**reproduce – to make babies or copies of something**

**thorax – the middle third of the beetle body where the wings and legs are**

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## More Great Books To Read

**Title:** Grasshopper's  
**Author:** Graham Coleman  
**Publisher:** Gareth Stevens  
**Copyright:** 1997

**Title:** The Lifecycle of a Grasshopper  
**Author:** Jill Bailey  
**Publisher:** Bookwright Press  
**Copyright:** 1990

**Title:** Grasshopper's  
**Author:** Cheryl Coughlan  
**Publisher:** Capstone Press  
**Copyright:** 1999

### Websites

**Link 1**  
**Link 2**  
**Link 3**





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