

Strand

LIVING THINGS

Strand unit

Plants and animals

Objectives

- observe, identify and explore a variety of living things in local habitats and environments
- recognise and describe the parts of some living things

Working scientifically

- Questioning
- Observing
- Predicting
- Investigating and experimenting
- Recording and communicating

Background information

An insect's body parts perform the following functions.

Head: includes the mouth, eyes and antennae, but not the ears. (Many insects 'hear' by means of hairs on their bodies. Others have 'ears' on their legs or sides. They cannot be seen.) The mouth is surrounded by mouth parts which vary according to how the insect feeds. The eyes are mostly large 'compound' eyes. Each compound eye is made up of hundreds of separate lenses. The antennae are used to smell and feel.

Thorax: the legs and wings are attached to the thorax, which has three fused parts. One pair of legs is attached to each part of the thorax. Most insects have wings, either two or four, which are attached to the thorax.

Abdomen: in the abdomen are the essential organs for digestion, reproduction and waste products. The abdomen of most insects can expand and contract. Some insects have a poisonous sting at the end of the abdomen.

Before the lesson

Materials needed

- Chart or books showing pictures of insects.

Preparation

- No extra preparation needed.

The lesson

Stimulus

- Use the worksheet to discuss each of the body parts of an insect. Whiteboard common words used to describe insects.

What to do

- Have pupils suggest functions for each body part before discussing the actual functions, as detailed in the background information.
- Pupils cut and paste body part labels onto the diagram.

After the lesson

Answers

- Teacher check

Additional activities

- On the whiteboard, make up a chart with insect and other animal parts listed vertically. Horizontally, list Insect, Mammal, Bird, Fish etc. Tick what parts each has and discuss the results.

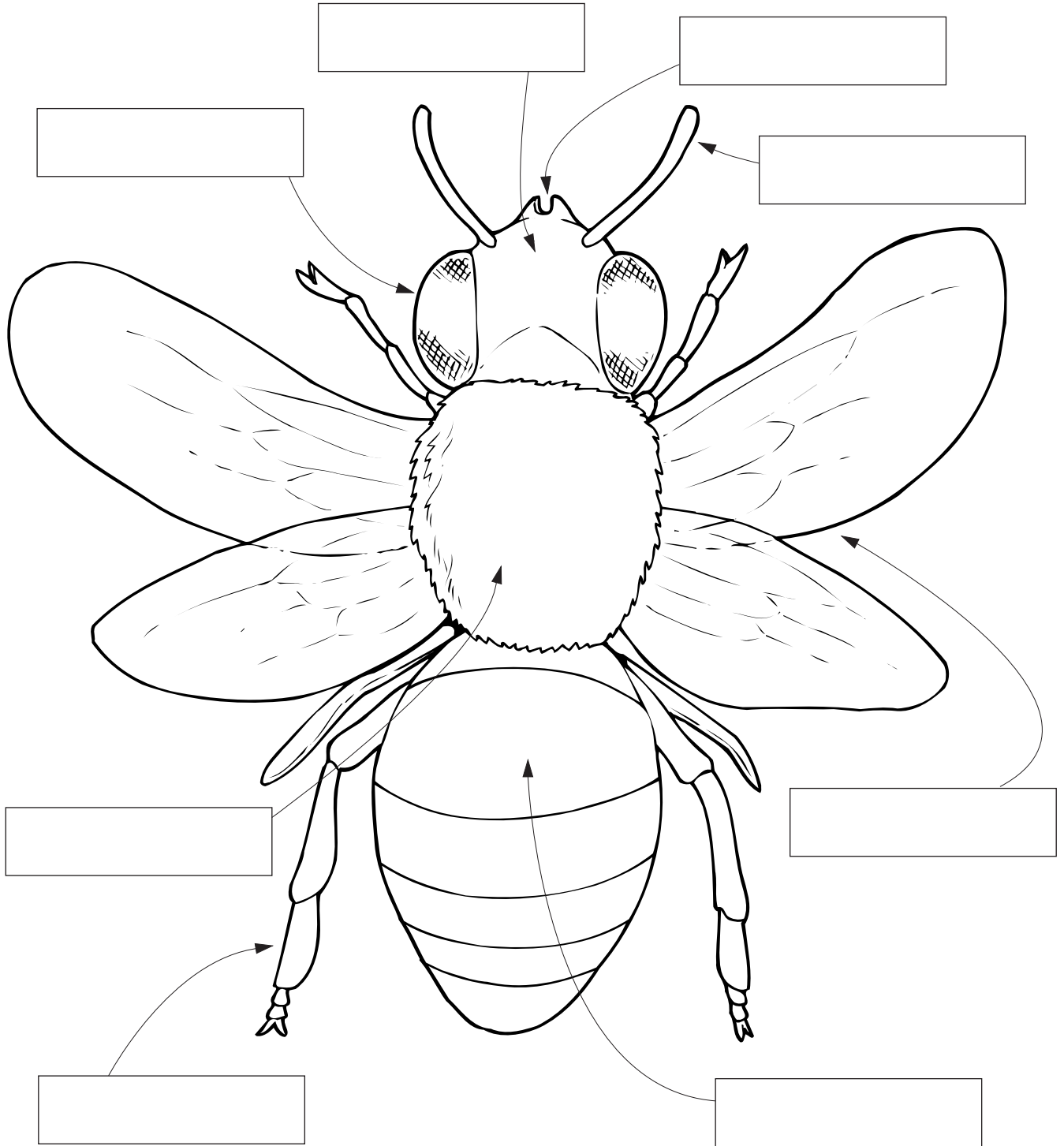
Display ideas

- Pupils can make a collage of an insect and label the parts.

Parts of an insect

Insects have many different shapes, colours and sizes.
 However, all insects have the same body parts.

Cut and glue the body part names in the correct places.



Head	Thorax	Abdomen	Mouth
Antenna	Eye	Leg	Wing