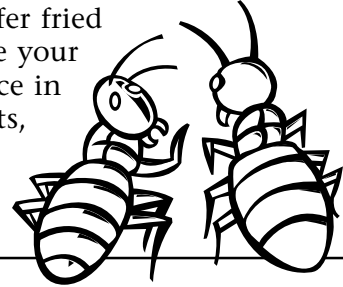


Creepy, Crawly Food?

How about having ants for lunch? Or maybe you prefer fried grasshoppers for dinner? Although insects may not be your idea of a great meal, they are an important food source in many parts of the world. Insect larvae, locusts, crickets, termites, and grasshoppers are just a few of the many insects that are eaten by humans. Dig in!

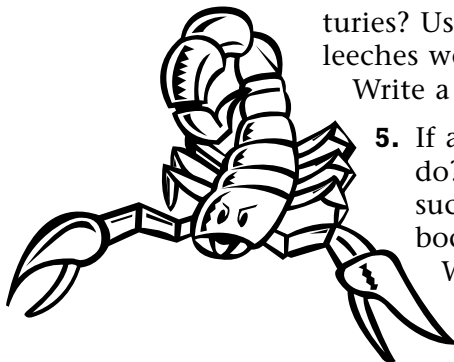


Bugs for Dinner?

1. Research several cultures in which insects are part of people's regular diet. Why do they eat insects? How are the insects prepared? What is their nutritional value? Discuss your findings in a report, and include at least two recipes that contain insects as ingredients.

Research Ideas

2. What does a mollusk have to do with photography? For centuries, people have made products from mollusks. Pearls and mother-of-pearl are used in jewelry, and octopuses release a black fluid that was once used to make ink. Discover the connections between mollusks and photography, and then research at least nine other mollusk products. Make a poster display of your findings, and include samples, photos, or illustrations of the products.
3. The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Australia, supports an incredible variety of marine life. It takes an incredible number of coral skeletons, and sometimes millions of years, to build a coral reef. Find out how coral reefs are formed and why they are endangered. Present your research in the form of a news article.
4. Most people try to avoid leeches, little wormlike creatures that suck blood. But did you know that leeches were used to treat illnesses in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? Use library resources to find out how and why leeches were used and how they are being used today.
Write a report about your findings.



5. If a scorpion stung you, would you know what to do? Research how the sting or bite of an arachnid, such as a scorpion or spider, affects the human body. How dangerous are these animals to humans? What do they use their poison for? Find out what you should do if you are bitten, and write a safety brochure outlining your findings.