



**THE LIFE
UNDER
YOUR FEET**



HAVE YOU LOOKED
DOWN LATELY?



THE SOIL IS FULL
OF CRITTERS OF
ALL SHAPES AND
SIZES

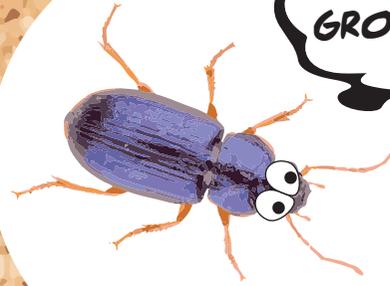


I AM AN
EARTHWORM



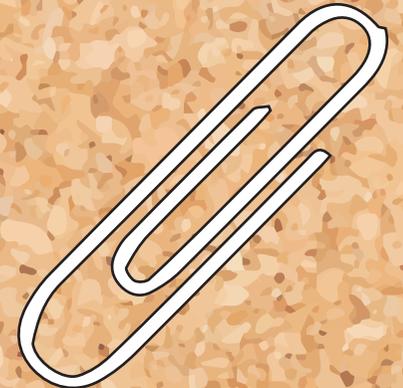
- ❑ EARTHWORMS DON'T HAVE EYES
- ❑ THE LONGEST EARTHWORMS ARE OVER TWO METERS LONG!

I AM A
GROUND BEETLE



- ❑ THERE ARE MORE THAN 40 000 SPECIES OF GROUND BEETLES
- ❑ MOST GROUND BEETLES HAVE SHINY BODIES

STANDING UP, YOU CAN SEE CRITTERS AS LARGE AS A PAPER CLIP

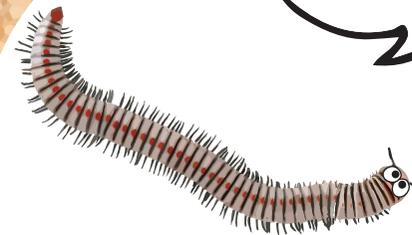


I AM A
WOLF SPIDER



- ❑ WOLF SPIDERS LIVE ON THE GROUND AND DON'T SPIN WEBS
- ❑ AFTER HATCHING, BABY WOLF SPIDERS RIDE ON THEIR MOTHER'S BACK

I AM A
MILLIPEDE



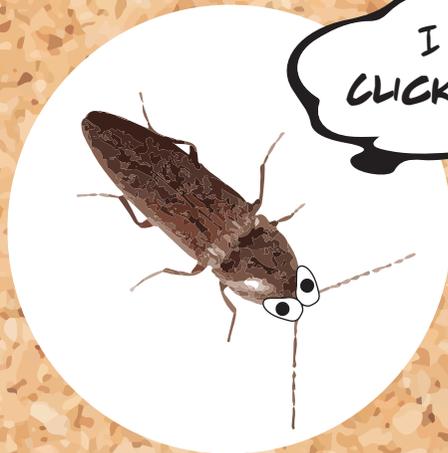
- ❑ THERE ARE MORE THAN 12 000 SPECIES OF MILLIPEDES
- ❑ THE LONGEST MILLIPEDE HAS 750 LEGS





I AM A LADYBUG

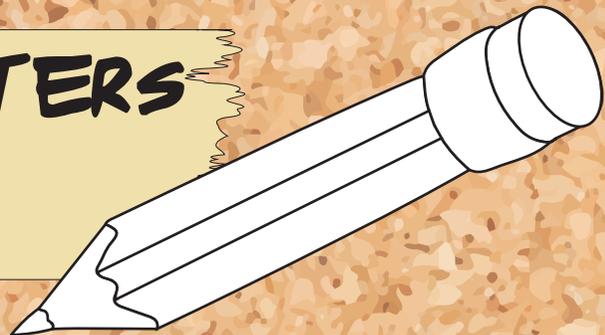
- LADYBUGS ARE ALSO CALLED LADYBIRDS
- LADYBUGS ARE BEETLES, NOT TRUE BUGS



I AM A CLICK BEETLE

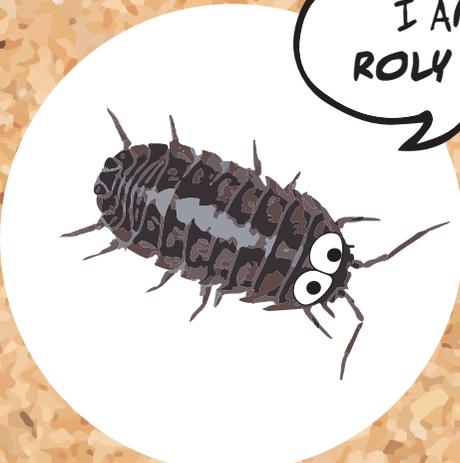
- IF A CLICK BEETLE FALLS ON ITS BACK, IT WILL JUMP AND MAKE A CLICKING SOUND
- CLICK BEETLES ARE COMMON IN GARDENS

KNEELING DOWN YOU CAN SEE CRITTERS AS LARGE AS AN ERASER



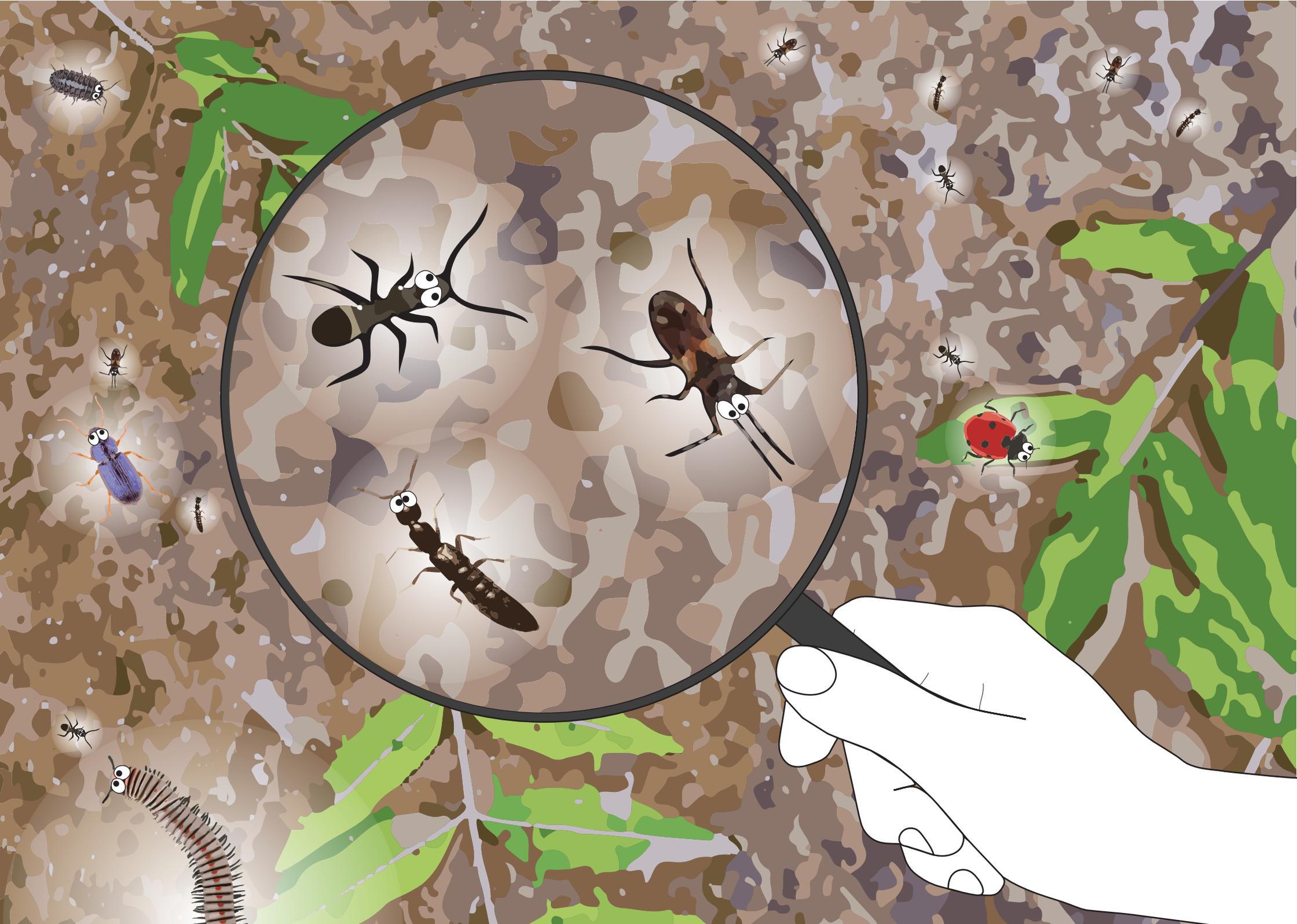
I AM AN EARWIG

- EARWIGS GET THEIR NAMES FROM THEIR WINGS, WHICH LOOK LIKE HUMAN EARS.
- THEY DON'T LIKE TO FLY



I AM A ROLY POLY

- ROLY POLIES ARE NOT INSECTS! THEIR CLOSEST RELATIVES ARE CRABS AND LOBSTERS.
- ROLY POLIES HAVE 14 LEGS





I AM A
ROVE BEETLE

- WHEN THEY'RE NOT FLYING, ROVE BEETLES TUCK AWAY THEIR WINGS BY FOLDING THEM 7 TIMES!
- THERE ARE MORE THAN 63 000 SPECIES OF ROVE BEETLES



I AM AN
ANT

- ANTS LIVE IN COLONIES THAT CAN HAVE MILLIONS OF MEMBERS
- AN ANT COLONY ALWAYS HAS A QUEEN, WORKER ANTS, AND SOLDIER ANTS

WITH A MAGNIFYING GLASS, YOU CAN SEE CRITTERS AS SMALL AS YOUR TOOTH



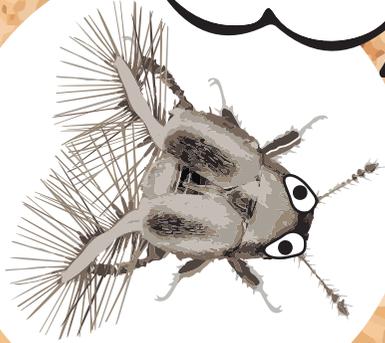
I AM A
TRUE BUG

- TRUE BUGS ARE NEVER LARVAE, THEY HATCH AS MINIATURE ADULTS AND GROW
- TRUE BUGS HAVE SPECIAL MOUTHS FOR SUCKING JUICES OUT OF LEAVES OR PREY





I AM A
FEATHERWING
BEETLE



- THESE BEETLES GET THEIR NAME FROM THEIR TINY FEATHERY WINGS
- MANY FEATHERWING BEETLES ARE SO SMALL THAT THEY DON'T HAVE A HEART

I AM A
PREDATORY MITE



- PREDATORY MITES ARE A FARMER'S BEST FRIEND: THEY EAT GARDEN PESTS!
- MITES ARE RELATED TO SPIDERS AND SCORPIONS. LIKE THEIR COUSINS, THEY HAVE 8 LEGS

WITH A MICROSCOPE, YOU CAN SEE CRITTERS
SMALLER THAN THE TIP OF A NEEDLE

I AM A
MOSS MITE

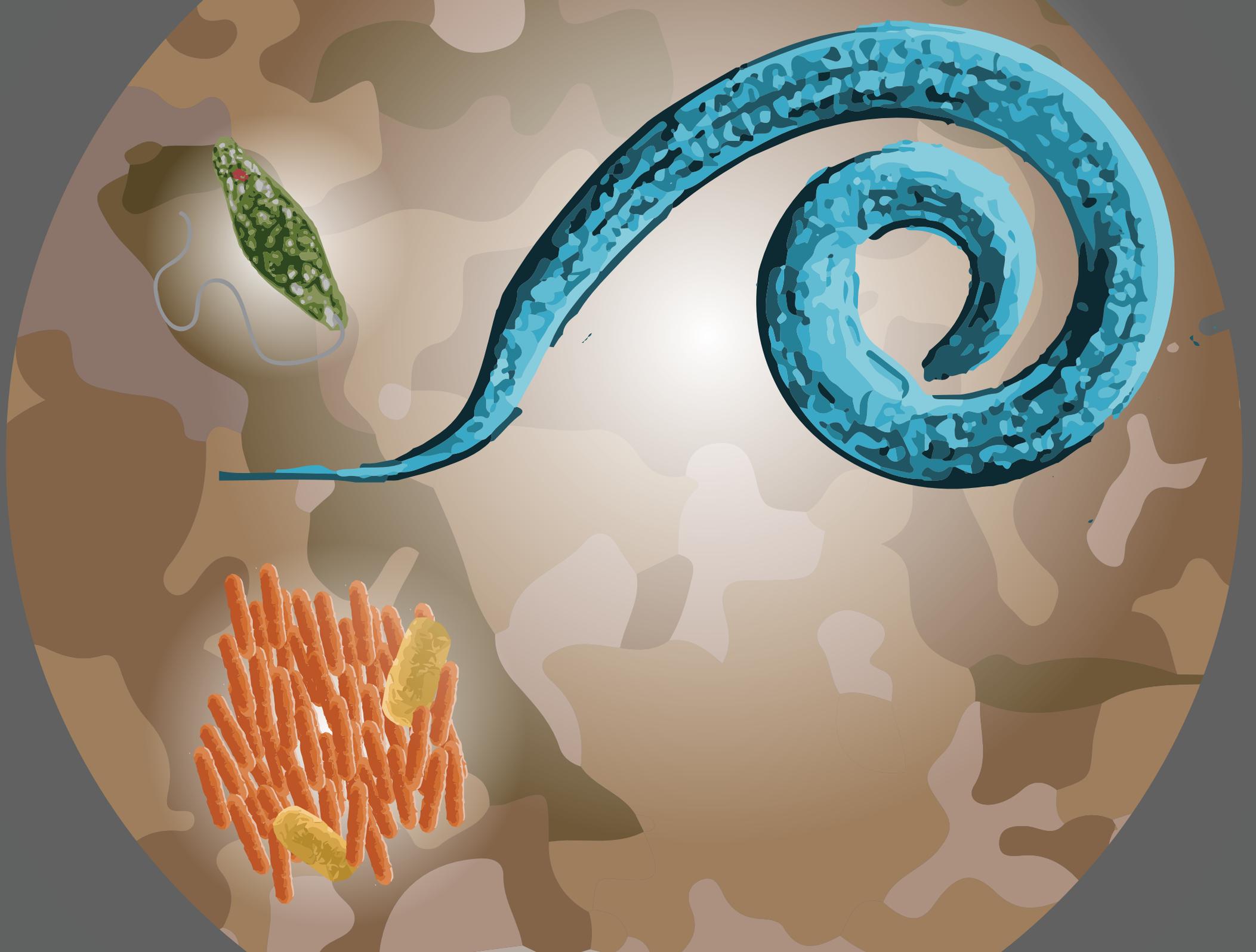


- MOSS MITES EAT DEAD PLANT LEAVES AND HELP RETURN THE NUTRIENTS TO THE SOIL
- YOU WILL FIND THEM IN EVERY SOIL

I AM A
SPRINGTAIL



- SPRINGTAILS ARE ALSO CALLED COLLEMBOLA
- ON THEIR UNDERSIDES, SPRINGTAILS HAVE A FORK-LIKE SPIKE, WHICH THEY USE TO JUMP AWAY FROM PREDATORS



I AM A
NEMATODE



- NEMATODES ARE VERY SIMPLE ANIMALS, BUT THEY ARE THE MOST ABUNDANT.
- 4 OUT OF 5 ANIMALS ON THE PLANET ARE NEMATODES

I AM
EUGLENA



- EUGLENA ARE SINGLE-CELLED. THEY ARE PROTISTS, NOT ANIMALS!
- EUGLENA MOVE WITH THEIR TAIL-LIKE FLAGELLUM

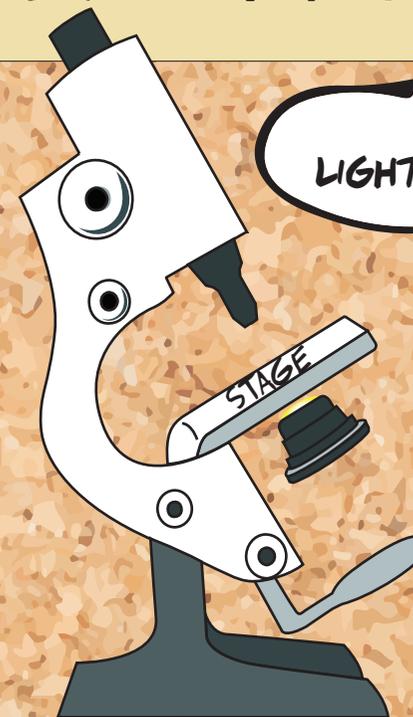
WITH ANOTHER LENS ON THE MICROSCOPE, YOU CAN SEE CRITTERS SMALLER THAN A HAIR

WE ARE
BACTERIA



- A TEASPOON OF SOIL CAN HAVE A BILLION BACTERIA!
- SOIL BACTERIA GIVE SOIL ITS EARTHY SMELL

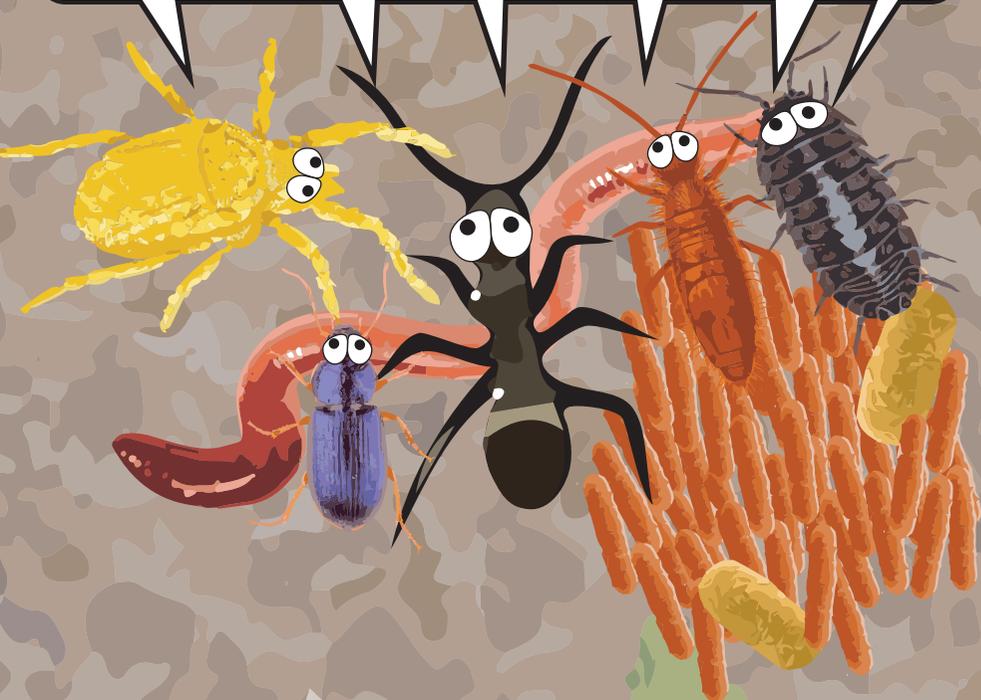
I AM A
LIGHT MICROSCOPE



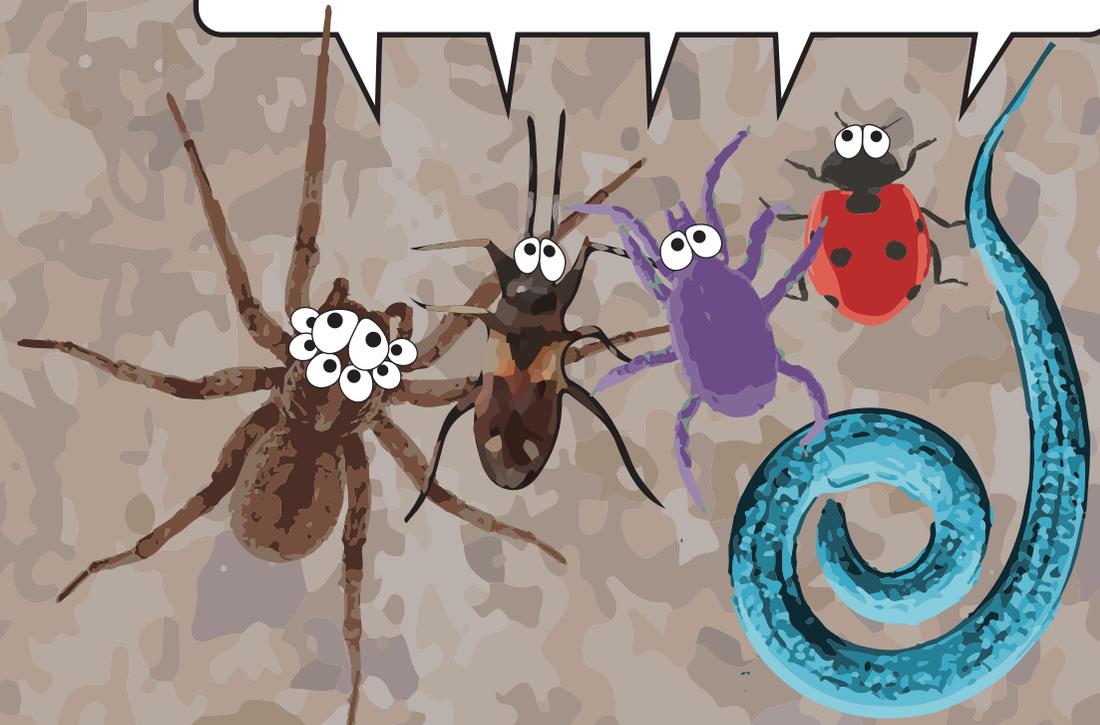
- LIGHT MICROSCOPES WERE USED TO SEE BACTERIA FOR THE FIRST TIME
- TO SEE CRITTERS, PLACE THEM ON THE STAGE. A LIGHT IS SHONE FROM BELOW, AND LENSES IN THE NECK ARE USED TO MAGNIFY THE SAMPLE

THESE CRITTERS KEEP OUR SOILS HEALTHY

WE BREAK DOWN DEAD PLANTS,
DEAD ANIMALS, AND POOP SO THAT
LIVING PLANTS CAN USE THEM TO
GROW



WE PROTECT PLANTS FROM
PESTS





**SO KEEP SOIL
ALIVE, AND PROTECT
BIODIVERSITY!**

