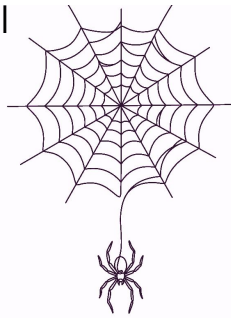


Creepers, crawlers, and critters are all around us. This month, you'll explore the science behind the animal kingdom's often misunderstood residents, including those that creep, crawl, slither, and burrow.



You'll get to try a brand new "Fact Busters" activity, where you guess, read, and find out some surprising facts about animals you may already know. You'll also learn what real scientists know about insects, make fun crafts using leaves you find outside, and put your persuasion skills to the test. Get ready to explore, create, and discover!

This packet includes the following activities:

- Wild Reads
- Entomology 101
- Critter Craft
- Creepy-Crawler PR Campaign
- Fact Busters: Critter Edition
- Ants on a Log
- Creepy-Crawly Hand Art
- Creepy Critters + Coloring

Explore More

Invent your own creepy-crawly creature.

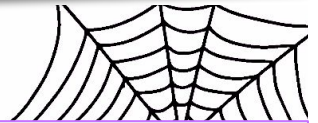
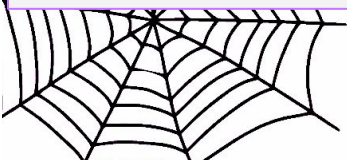
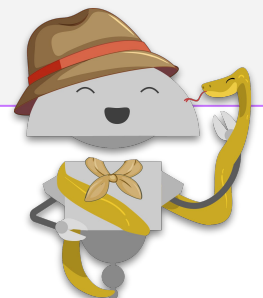
Combine parts from three different animals (like a butterfly's wings, a snake's body, and a spider's legs) to invent your own creepy-crawly creature. Give it a name!

Make your own song.

Ask your adult to help you learn more about your favorite creepy-crawly critter and make your own song using what you learned.

Go on a critter search.

Take a walk outside and count how many different creepy-crawly critters you can find. Draw a picture of your favorite one!





Check out these books to discover some amazing creepers, crawlers, and critters! Learn fun facts about bugs, frogs, snakes, and other wonderfully weird creatures.

Then, share your own reading adventure in our October Newspaper Contest!



Creepy-Crawly Reads



***Some Bugs*, by Angela DiTerlizzi** (Grades K-1)

Crawl, hop, flutter, and explore! This playful book introduces all kinds of backyard bugs and the interesting ways they move and behave.

***Disgusting Critters*, by Elise Gravel** (Grades 1-5)

Through this series, meet worms, slugs, flies, spiders, and other wonderfully weird creatures while learning funny and surprising facts about how they live.

***Facts about Frogs and Snakes*, by Sue Stuever** (Grades 2-5)

Hop and slither into the world of frogs and snakes with fun facts written especially for curious young readers.

***Bugs That Love!* by Lori-Michele** (Grades 3-5)

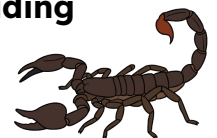
Discover how even the tiniest critters care for their families! Learn how different bugs protect one another, work together, and help their families thrive.

October Newspaper Contest

This October, our Newspaper Contest theme is “Reading Adventures”!

Have you read a book you love? Tell us about a favorite story, a new book you discovered, an exciting reading adventure, or even one of the critter books on this page!

How to participate: Select **Newspaper Contest** as your category, include “**Reading Adventures**” in your title, and submit your approved entry by **October 31**.



Three winners from each site will receive a special Contest Feather and 1,000 Gold/\$coops! Remember to follow all Site Rules and Community Guidelines.



Read the following information about entomologists, then answer the questions.

What Is an Entomologist?

Did you know that there are over one million different types of insects? An **insect** is a small animal with six legs and an outer shell whose body is split into three parts. It's important to know about all different kinds of insects because many insects help people. Some insects help plants grow, while others eat insects that can hurt people or plants.



An **entomologist** (en-tuh-MAH-luh-jist) is a scientist who studies insects. Entomologists learn about many different types of insects, help farmers keep harmful insects away from their plants, and discover new types of insects.

Questions

1. What is an entomologist?

2. Why is it important for an entomologist to study insects?

3. Imagine you are an entomologist. What insect would you want to study?

Don't forget about the question on the next page!



Research Activity Entomology 101

Creepers, Crawlers, and Critters K-5 Activities

Imagine you are an entomologist and you just discovered a brand new insect. What does it look like? How does it interact with humans? Draw or describe your insect in the box below.





For this project, you will use leaves from the world around you.

How to find leaves:

- Take a walk outside
- Visit a park
- Use leaves from a houseplant
- Ask a neighbor that has a garden

Don't have access to leaves?

Complete this activity using objects you can trace instead. This might include coins, measuring cups, cookie cutters, or anything else you can think of.

Supplies Needed:

- ☐ 10+ leaves
- ☐ Paper or cardstock
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Markers, colored pencils, or crayons



There are two versions of this craft. Choose Version A, Version B, or both! Then, turn to the next page for directions.

Version A: Create Your Own Critters



Version B: Color Your Critters and Make a Leaf Frame





Version A: Create Your Own Critters



Directions

1. **Glue** leaves on your paper or cardstock.
2. **Draw** legs, heads, eyes, or other body parts to create your own critters.

Optional: Color some of the critters on the following page. Then, cut them out and glue them on the same page with your leaf critters.

Tip: Place a heavy object, like a book, on top of your critters overnight so they lie flat as they continue to dry.

Version B: Color Your Critters and Make a Frame



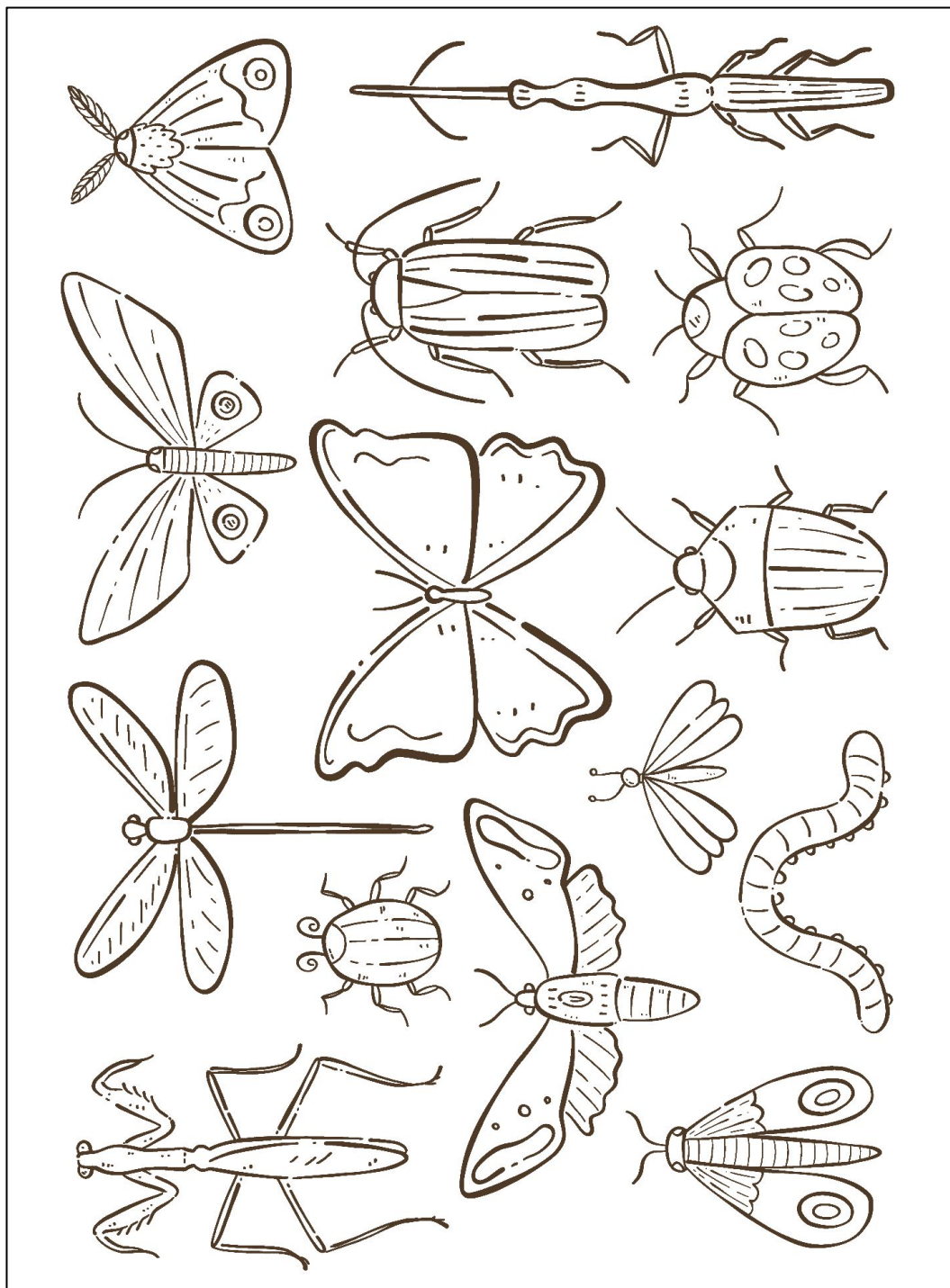
Directions

1. **Color** the critters on the following page.
2. **Cut** along the dashed lines where indicated by the scissors symbol.
3. **Glue** leaves around the border to create a frame.

Tip: Place a heavy object, like a book, on top of your frame overnight so it lies flat as it continues to dry.

Looking for more ideas and inspiration? Ask an adult to scan or click the QR code.







Create a poster about an animal that some people might be scared of. Show why the animal is helpful or important.



Sometimes, people are scared of an animal. They might have had something happen that made them scared, or they might think the animal looks scary.

Choose one of the animals from the list below and ask your parent or guardian to help you learn more about the animal.

Then, create a poster that explains the good things the animal does that helps people and other animals.

Choose an animal:	Bat	Rat	Snake	Worm
	Bee	Frog	Ant	Spider

Make your poster here or on a blank piece of paper:



Predict true or false. **Read** to find out. Then, **check** your answer!

Have you ever heard something about an animal and wondered whether it was true? Some things people say about animals are true, and some are not. Let's find out together!



If you touch a toad, you'll get a wart, a small, hard bump on your skin.

What do you think? (Select one.)

True

False

Warts come from a tiny germ called a virus that lives in people, not in toads. A toad's skin is bumpy and dry, but those bumps are just part of how a toad looks. Touching a toad won't change your skin at all.

Is this true or false?

True

False

Were you surprised?

Yes

No



Bats can't see anything at all.

What do you think? (Select one.)

True

False

Bats have eyes that work well, and many bats can see just fine during the day. At night, bats also use a special kind of hearing called echolocation (eh-coh-low-KAY-shun). They make sounds and listen for how those sounds bounce back, which helps them fly around in the dark.

Is this true or false?

True

False

Were you surprised?

Yes

No



Spiders have six legs, just like bugs such as ants and beetles.

What do you think? (Select one.)

True

False

Ants, beetles, and other bugs like them are called insects. Insects have six legs and three body parts. Spiders have eight legs and only two body parts. Because of this, spiders belong to a different animal group called arachnids (uh-RAK-nids), not insects.

Is this true or false?

True

False

Were you surprised?

Yes

No



Ladybugs help gardens grow.

What do you think? (Select one.)

True

False

Many gardeners are happy to see ladybugs. Ladybugs eat tiny bugs called aphids (AY-fidz), and aphids can hurt plants by feeding on their leaves. When ladybugs eat the aphids, the plants get a better chance to grow strong.

Is this true or false?

True

False

Were you surprised?

Yes

No



Create a delicious snack that celebrates a strong and organized little crawler!



Did you know that ants aren't just tiny bugs that show up at picnics?

They are super strong, live in big underground homes, and talk without making a sound!

- Ants can lift things much heavier than their own body!
- Many ants live together in tunnels under the ground.
- Ants “talk” to each other using smells instead of words.

Ready to make some ants on a log? Make sure to ask an adult for help with this activity!

Ants on a Log (Serves Four)

Ingredients

- ❑ 4 celery stalks
- ❑ ½ cup peanut butter, or a nut or seed butter of your choosing
- ❑ ⅓ cup of raisins
- ❑ ⅓ cup of chocolate chips (optional addition or substitution for raisins!)

Steps

1. Wash the celery stalks with water and pat them dry with a paper towel or clean towel.
2. Ask an adult to help cut each celery stalk in half so you have shorter logs.
3. Use a butter knife or a spoon to spread the nut or seed butter of your choice into the groove of each celery log.
4. Gently place raisins on top of the peanut butter in a line to resemble ants walking single file! You may add chocolate chips or replace the raisins to make this a sweeter treat.
5. Serve and enjoy!





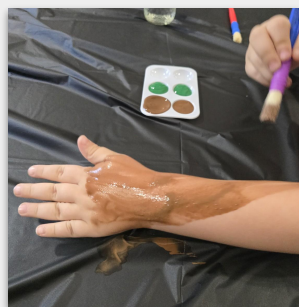
With just a little color, bring your hands to life by creating ASL critters!

Supplies Needed: Paint, brushes, paint tray, and a covered working area



1. Choose Your Critter

Choose a critter and find the ASL sign for that animal on the next two pages. Think about the colors you'll need for your design.



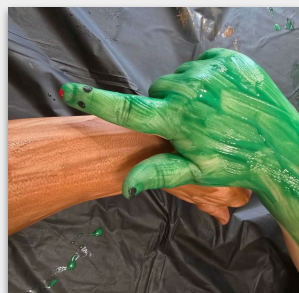
2. Paint Your Hand(s)

Paint the parts of your hand and arm needed for your design, starting with your critter's main color. If the sign uses two hands, paint both hands!



3. Add the Details

Add spots, stripes, eyes, patterns, or other features to make your hand look like your creepy-crawly.



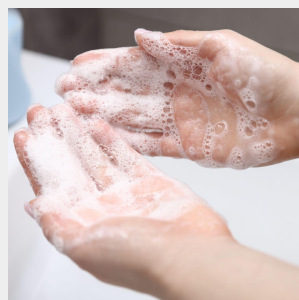
4. Make the ASL Sign

Put your hands into the correct handshape and show off your creepy-crawly sign!
*Use the next two pages for support with this step!



5. Share It

Take a photo of your hands to share with your family and friends to show them your critter hand(s)!

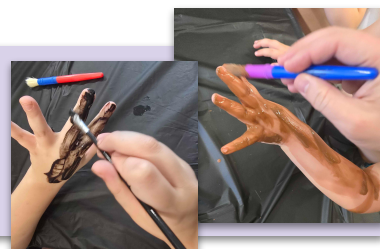


6. Clean Up!

Wash the paint off your hands with soap and water. Rinse out your brushes and clean your work area.

Tips:

- Use a smaller brush to paint around your fingers, knuckles, and other small spaces.
- Ask a grown-up for help with areas that are hard to reach.

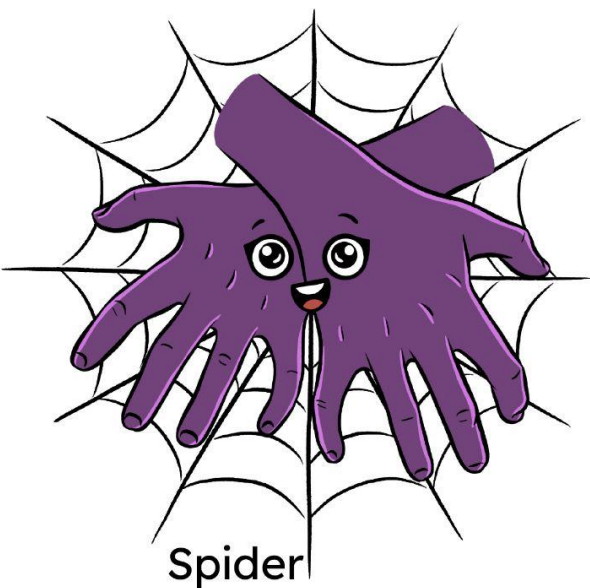


Not sure what to paint? Check out the next two pages for colorful creepy-crawly ideas! You can choose any critter shown, not just the spider or lizard in our examples.

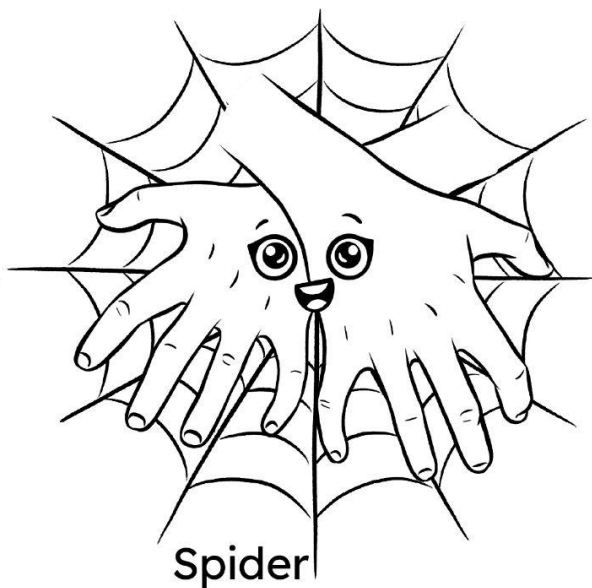
Don't want to paint your hands? That's OK! Use the blank hand pictures to design and color your own creepy-crawly hands instead.



1



Spider

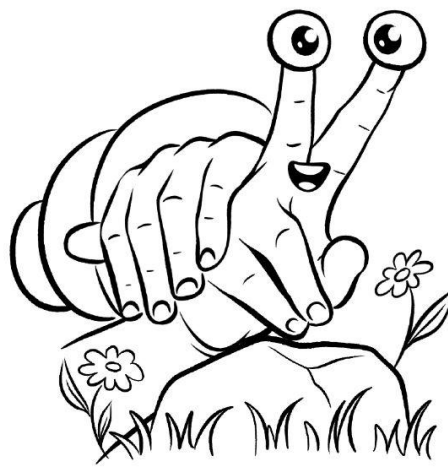


Spider

2



Snail



Snail

3



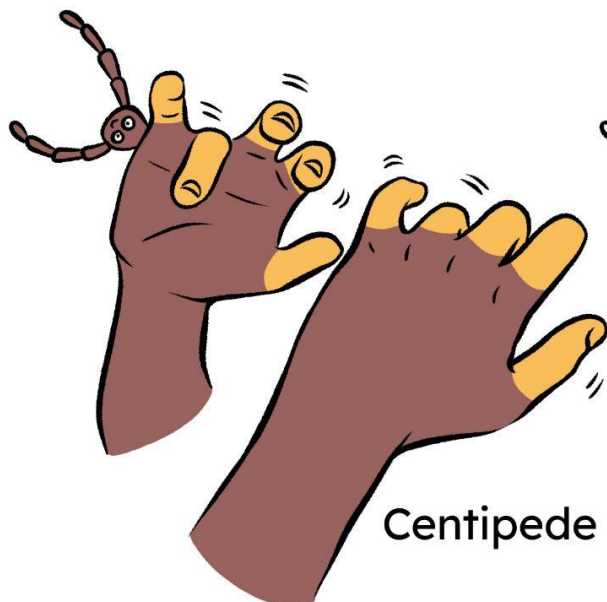
Snake



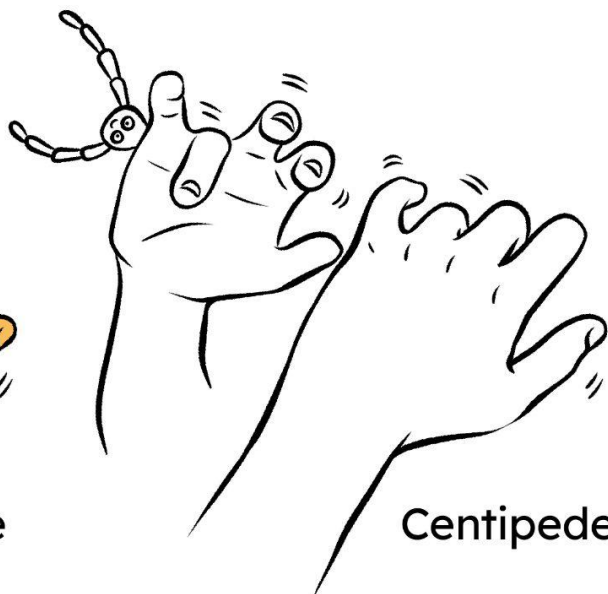
Snake



4

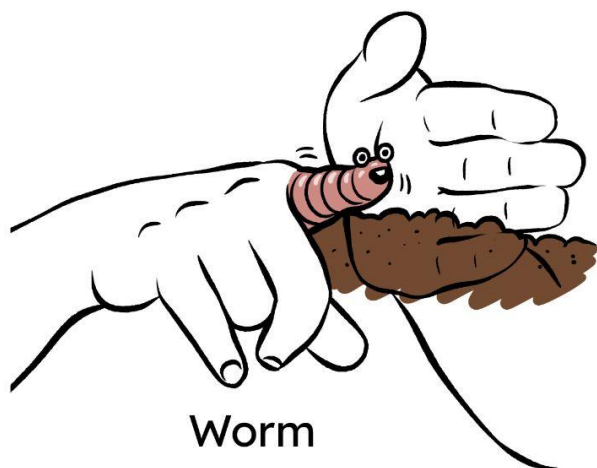


Centipede

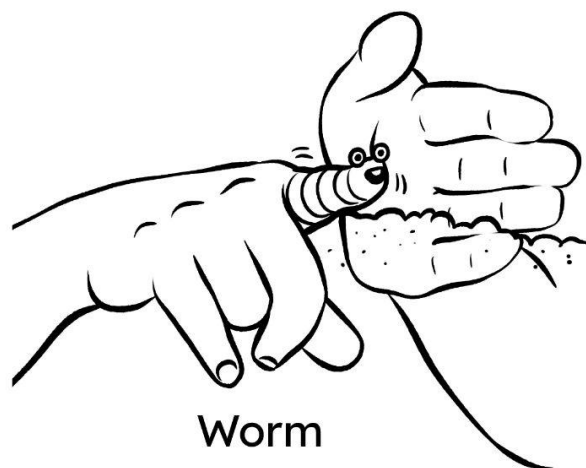


Centipede

5

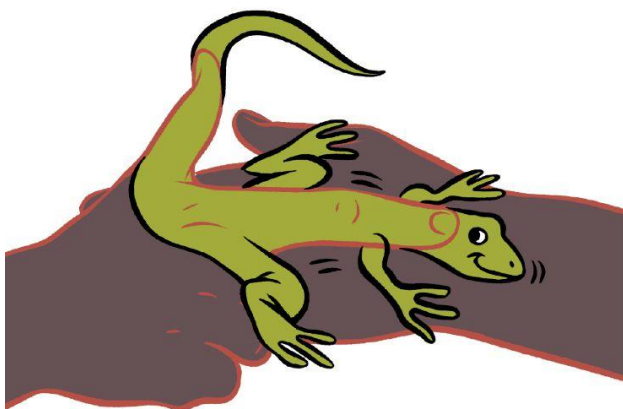


Worm

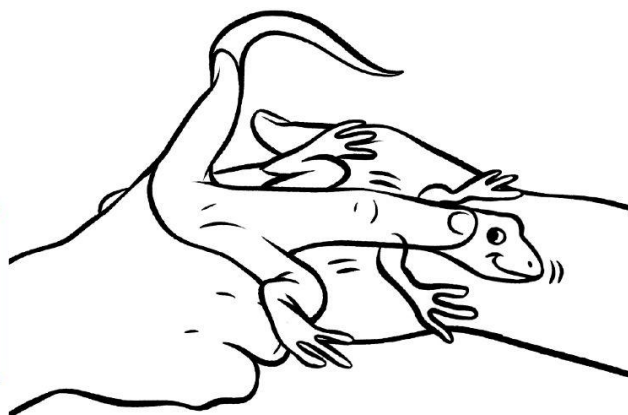


Worm

6



Lizard



Lizard