

LEVELED BOOK • I

Extreme Insects



Written by Sylvia Ives Baxter

www.readinga-z.com

Extreme Insects



Written by Sylvia Ives Baxter

www.readinga-z.com



Table of Contents

Introduction 4

Extreme Size 6

Extreme Look-Alikes 8

Extreme Weapons. 11

Conclusion. 15

Glossary. 16

Index 16

Robber fly



A robber fly dines on another insect.

Introduction

Insects are always in danger.

They have many enemies.

They are food for each other
as well as other animals.



A peanut-head bug's looks and its skunk-like spray help keep it alive.

Insects have many **traits** that help them stay alive.

These traits include size, looks, and weapons.

Let's look at some of the **extreme** traits insects have that help them.

Goliath beetle



Goliath beetles are one of the largest insects in the world.

Extreme Size

This beetle can grow as long as a pen.
It can weigh as much as a banana.
Extreme size and a hard cover
protect it from its enemies.



A walking stick's size and looks help keep it from being eaten.

This insect can grow longer than a new pencil.

Its size frightens smaller insects away. Animals don't eat it because they think it is just a big stick.

Trash bug



Trash bugs carry leftovers on their backs to hide from animals that might eat them.

Extreme Look-Alikes

Many insects look like other things. Their looks help them hide from animals that want to eat them.



Can you find the insect in this picture?

Some insects look like parts of plants. They can look like leaves, flowers, stems, or even thorns.

Sphinx moth caterpillar



A Sphinx moth caterpillar can puff up its spots so it looks like a cobra.

There are insects with large fake eyes to scare hungry animals away. When scared, this **caterpillar** can make itself look like a snake.



Ambush bugs have thick front legs to catch bees and flies.

Extreme Weapons

Some insects have extreme weapons to help them survive. Some of these insects use their weapons to get food. Others use their weapons to keep from *becoming* food.

Antlion larva



An antlion larva traps and eats ants with its extreme jaws.

This insect digs a pit in the sand.
It traps ants in the pit.
Then it grabs an ant in its large,
sharp jaws. Yummy!



Assassin bug

The assassin bug's beak makes it deadly.

This bug jumps on other insects.
It stabs them with its sharp beak.
It shoots out **poison** that turns their
insides to goo.
Then the bug sucks out the goo.
Slurp!



The bombardier beetle's spray keeps enemies away.

Watch out!

This beetle sprays out boiling hot poison when touched.

It stops animals from trying to eat it.



Ambush bugs hide near flowers to catch their prey.

Conclusion

Insects have many ways to protect themselves.

Their size, color, and weapons can help them stay alive.

Glossary

caterpillar	the second stage of the life cycle of a butterfly or moth; the larva stage (p. 10)
extreme	great or much more than usual (p. 5)
poison	a substance that can kill animals or plants (p. 13)
protect	to keep something from being hurt (p. 6)
traits	qualities that make living things different from one another (p. 5)

Index

ambush bug, 11, 15	Goliath beetle, 6
antlion, 12	larva, 12
assassin bug, 13	moths, 10
bombardier beetle, 14	peanut-head bug, 5
caterpillar, 10	protect, 6, 15
cobra snake, 10	titan walking stick, 7
enemies, 4	traits, 5

Photo Credits:

Front Cover, page 11: © Paul Whitten/Photo Researchers, Inc.; back cover, page 4: © Naturepix/Alamy; title page, page 8: © Stephen Dalton/Minden Pictures; page 3: © Jupiterimages Corporation; page 5: © M. Watson/ardea.com; page 6: courtesy of Paul Gertler/USFWS; page 7: © George Grall/National Geographic Creative; pages 9, 13: © Piotr Naskrecki/Minden Pictures; page 10: © Gregory G. Dimijian/Photo Researchers, Inc.; page 12: © Giacomo Radi/ardea.com; page 14: © REUTERS; page 15: © Michael Hampson/Alamy

Front cover: Ambush bug

Back cover: Robber fly eating a meal

Extreme Insects
Level I Leveled Book
© Learning A–Z
Written by Sylvia Ives Baxter

All rights reserved.

www.readinga-z.com

Correlation

LEVEL I	
Fountas & Pinnell	I
Reading Recovery	15–16
DRA	16