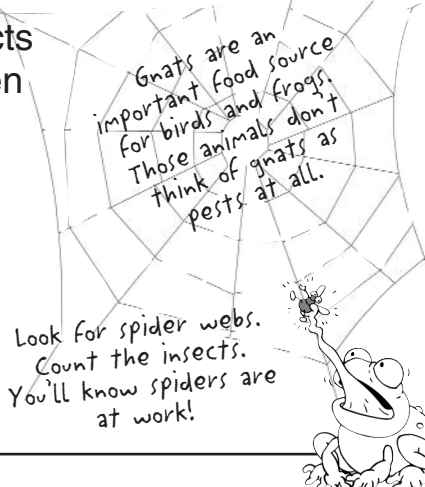


Insects: What's a Pest?

The world has more insects than all other living things combined. We need insects! Many insects work for us. They visit flowers and spread pollen so plants can produce fruits and vegetables. Some insects eat other insects that damage plants. These "worker" insects are welcome **guests**.

All insects have a place in the web of life. However some insects are a nuisance and some can be harmful. We call insects **pests** when they hurt, damage, destroy, or make us or our animals sick.



Insects destroy 10–15% of the world's food each year.

Did You know?

Pests or Guests

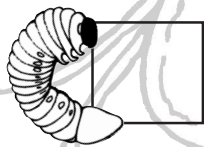
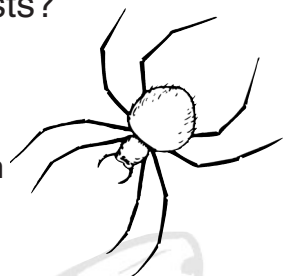


When are insects pests? And when are they welcome guests?

A In the boxes mark **P** for pest or **G** for guest.

B Fill in the blanks below.

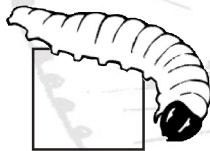
Ant, bee, cockroach, grub, mosquito, spider, wasp, worm



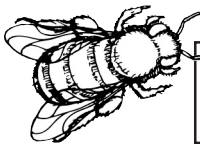
1 It chews and kills corn plants. No corn for us!

5 It preys on other insects that may harm plants.

2 It bites into apples.



6 Its bite can give your dog or cat heartworm disease.

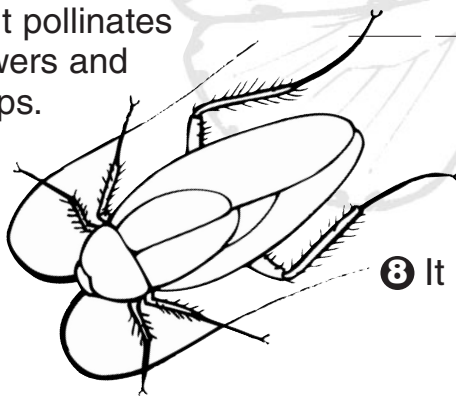


It pollinates flowers and crops.

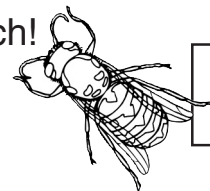
7 It shows up at your picnic.



4 It can trigger an asthma attack.



8 It may sting. Ouch!



This book shows some ways to fight the pests with least harm to the earth and other creatures.

