Insects

To be used with the Tangihua lions lodge program

What is an insect

All insects ? have these Characteristics

What do you think?

Just circle the answer

Body parts?
2
3

Legs?
6
8
More!

Eyes?
6 simple ones
8 simple ones
Usually 2 but sometimes 5

Mouthparts?
3 pairs
1 pair with fangs and poison

Wings?
Usually

Draw a line showing who relates to what

This insect has these characteristics
6 legs
8 legs
More!
Wings
Or
No wings
A long thin body
or
well developed legs and long feelers

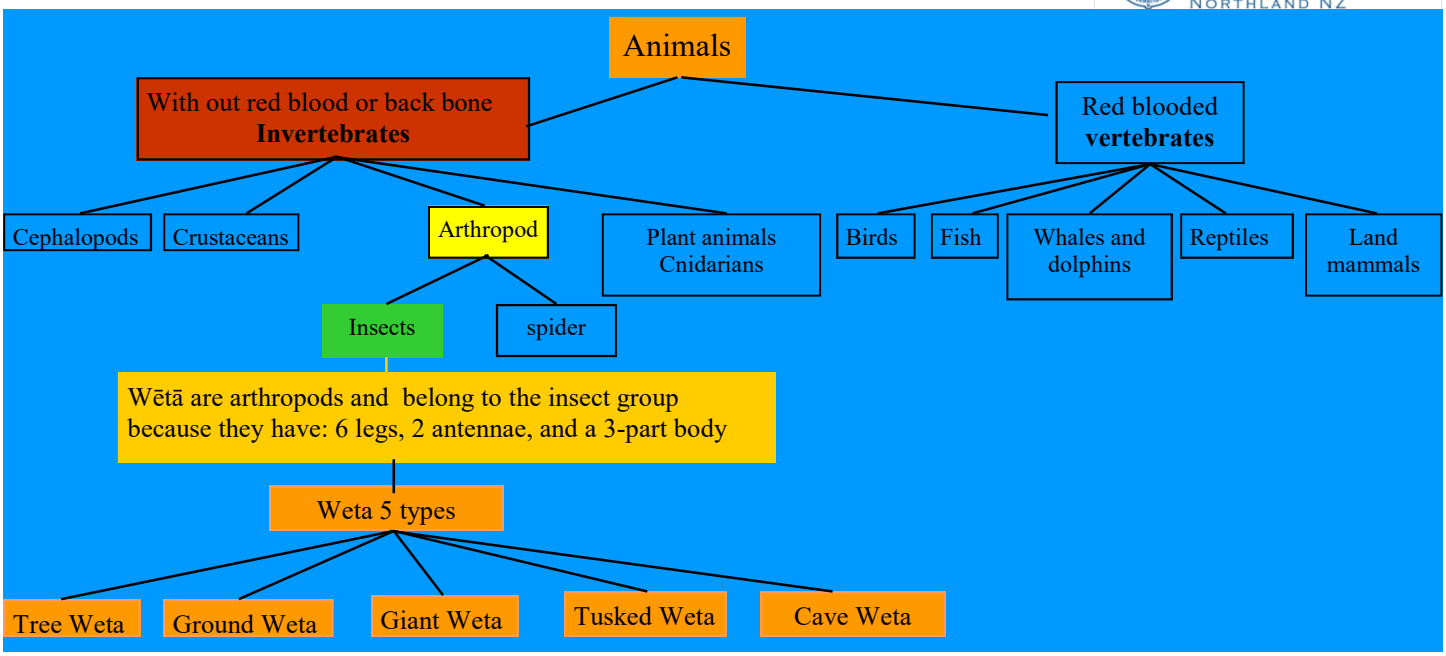
I am a
Beetle
Fly
Moth
Giant Weta
Cicada
Earwig
Stick insect

Now name one characteristic each of the other 6 bugs

What habitats do you find insects in

Weta

To be used with the Tangihua lions lodge program



Weta ?
have these

Antenna

Femur

Hind leg

Front leg

Ear

Ovipositor

Spiracles

Palps

Middle leg

two compound eyes for close-up sight and three little eyes called ocelli to sense light and dark

short tail-pieces called cerci to detect vibrations

females have a long ovipositor at the-back to deposit eggs into the soil

an ear on each front leg knee joint

palps alongside the jaws for tasting and smelling (like our tongue and nose)

spikey back legs that kick into the air for defence and make a rasping sound as they come back down.

Draw a line showing who relates to what

Why might Weta become extinct?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Is there any thing we can do to protect them

.....

.....

.....

.....

Weta

To be used with the Tangihua lions lodge program

Habitat - where they live

Weta prefer to live in the bush where it is dark and damp. They are often found in Manuka, Kanuka and Mahoe.

Weta are seldom found alone and often share space in holes in trees during the day, These holes are formed by beetles, moth larvae or where rot has set in after a twig has broken off. The hole, called a gallery, is maintained by the male weta who chews away any bark growing over the opening.

The larger male weta's set themselves up in the best galleries by fighting to remove lesser individuals. The Fights are not to kill – although legs and antennae, or parts of them, may be lost in the process.

The victorious male accepts females to live in the gallery and accumulates a harem – five or more females where there is room.

Tree wētā communicate by stridulation

Weta stridulating is when a rasping sound is ade by rubbing pegs on the inside of their hind legs across a row of ridges on their abdomen.

It is thought that males are territorial and that they stridulate at night to let other males know where they are and to call females to them.

Significance to Moari

weta carapaces were prized by the Maori, who used them as food pouches when going on long journeys. Although incredibly tough, they could be softened by boiling them for several days in the acidic water of volcanic springs, creating a leathery container which could be used to store food and other items. Weta flesh was regarded as a delicacy by the Maori,

Threats and conservation plan

Wētā have evolved alongside native predators such as birds, reptiles, and bats. The introduction of predators such as rats, mustelids, cats, and hedgehogs has resulted in a sharp increase in the rate of predation.

solution

good pest control

This male weta hung around my back door and would pay an occasional visit. The male Weta's pincers are used for fighting other Weta's but they can nip, as this one taught me when I tried to tidy him up. The female weta jumped out at me from the beside the water tank at the lodge

Weta

To be used with the Tangihua lions lodge program

Weta filled the role of rodents before land mammals came to New Zealand. When rats and mice started living here most wētā species couldn't compete. Their food was eaten and they became food for rodents. Numbers plummeted.

Giant Weta have been around for 190,million years and are older than tuatara This means they were around with the dinosaurs

Weta are large by insect standards but harmless

Weta can be found along most of the tracks and the nature trail but prefer to avoid been seen. They prefer to hide from people but they can bite with their powerful mandibles. Tree weta bites are painful but not particularly common. Their defence displays consist of looking large, spiky and scary they will retreat if given a chance. if wetas really feel threatened they will hiss and bite
The Maori call the giant weta ***wetapunga*** translated this means “a God of ugly things'

Weta at the Tangihua lions lodge are found.....

We are in the process of building Weta motels and will state where they are once they are completed. Weta can be found along most of the tracks and the nature trail but prefer to avoid been seen.
there were lots in the water filter shed but I think the rats got them

Tangihua Weta description

Wētā are related to grasshoppers, locusts, crickets and katydids (all members of the order Orthoptera) and, like their relatives, have powerful hind legs for jumping.
The New Zealand wētā species is divided in two families: the Anostostomatidae and the Rhaphidophoridae.
Anostostomatids are large-bodied wētā with heavy legs
There are Five groups:

1.Tree wētā
2.Cave wētā
3.Giant wētā
4.Tusked wētā.
5.Ground wētā

Tree wetas are up to 40 - 60mm long when full grown, nocturnal and flightless. The male tree wētā have enlarged heads – up to twice the length of the female’s head – with oversize jaws for fighting. The female weta looks as if she has a stinger, but it is an ovipositor for laying eggs
Like grasshoppers Weta have ears on their front legs!

Weta diet - tree weta

Most weta are omnivores preying on small insects. The tree weta eat mostly lichens, leaves, flowers, seedheads, and fruit. They will eat small insects and will occasional eat other small weta.

Reproduction

The female weta has an ovipositor, which enables her to lay eggs inside rotting wood or soil. The females will lay eggs throughout their adult life, generally producing between 100 to 300 cigar-shaped eggs in the autumn. They can hatch after month or in the following spring. The little weta look just like the adults, only smaller.
A tree weta takes between one and two years to reach adulthood, and over this time will have to shed its skin around ten times as it grows. Shedding or moulting their hard outer skin is called an instar. Moulting is necessary for them to grow in size.
Once they reach adulthood, tree wētā survive for six to ten months in lowland situations