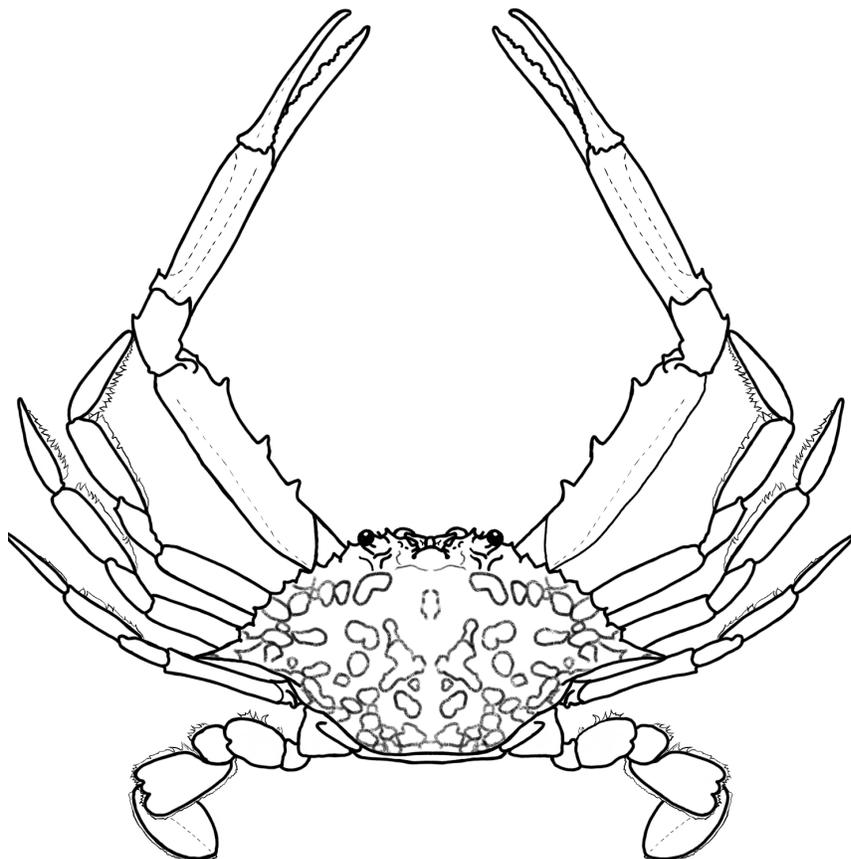
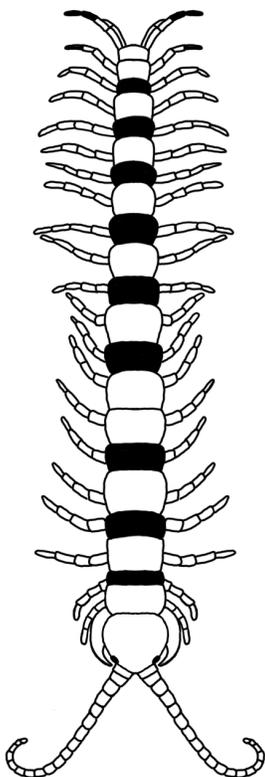
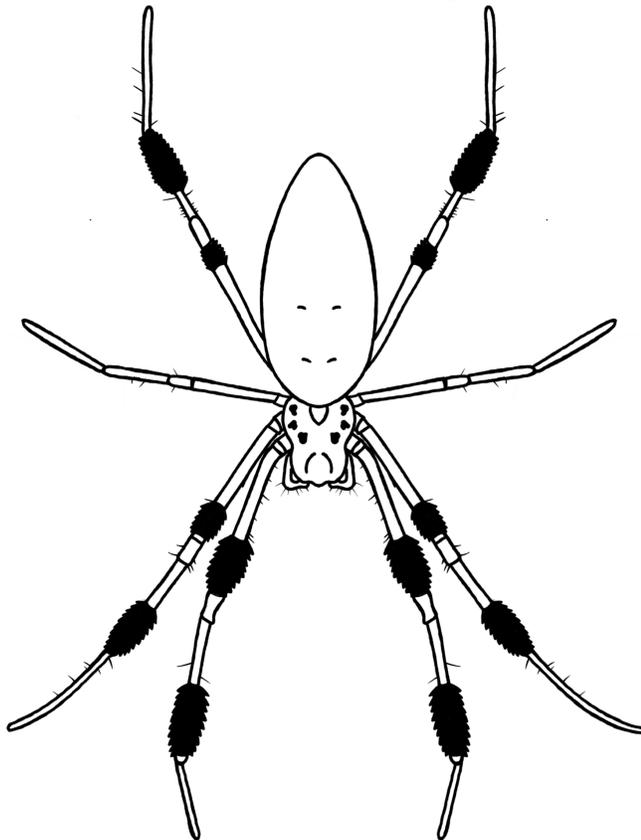
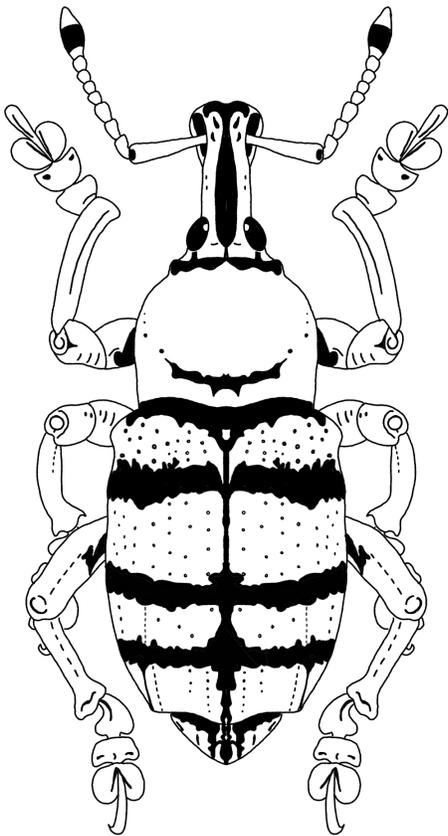


# Amazing Arthropods!

Drawings by Amanda Whispell



# Amazing Arthropods!

## Exoskeletons and Major Groups

Arthropods are invertebrate animals that lack an internal skeleton and instead possess an **exoskeleton**. An exoskeleton is essentially a skeleton they wear on the **OUTSIDE** of their body. Having an exoskeleton is much like wearing a suit of armor. Think about what would happen if you put on some armor right now and then wore it for the rest of your life. It wouldn't take very long before it would become too small for you as you continue to grow. So what would you do? You would get a larger size of armor, right? Well, that's exactly what arthropods do! They 'remove' their old exoskeleton (through a process known as molting) then they allow their body to fill up and stretch out a bit before the most outside layer hardens into a whole new exoskeleton. Growing in this way (with your skeleton on the outside) means that most arthropods need to 'molt' several times as they grow up.

### Arthropods include four major groups of critters:

#### **Hexapoda**

Insects

#### **Chelicerata**

Spiders, ticks, mites, scorpions, horseshoe crabs

#### **Crustacea**

Crabs, lobsters, shrimp, lots of plankton, roly-polies, barnacles, crayfish

#### **Myriapoda**

Centipedes and millipedes

Today you will learn how to tell if something is a crustacean, a myriapod, a chelicerate, or a hexapod – and all you have to do is **COUNT LEGS!** On the next few pages you will find one example of a critter from each group and you will need to figure out which one. Start by coloring all the arthropods, then count the legs and see which is which!

### How to tell:

**Hexapods** (insects) – have **6** legs

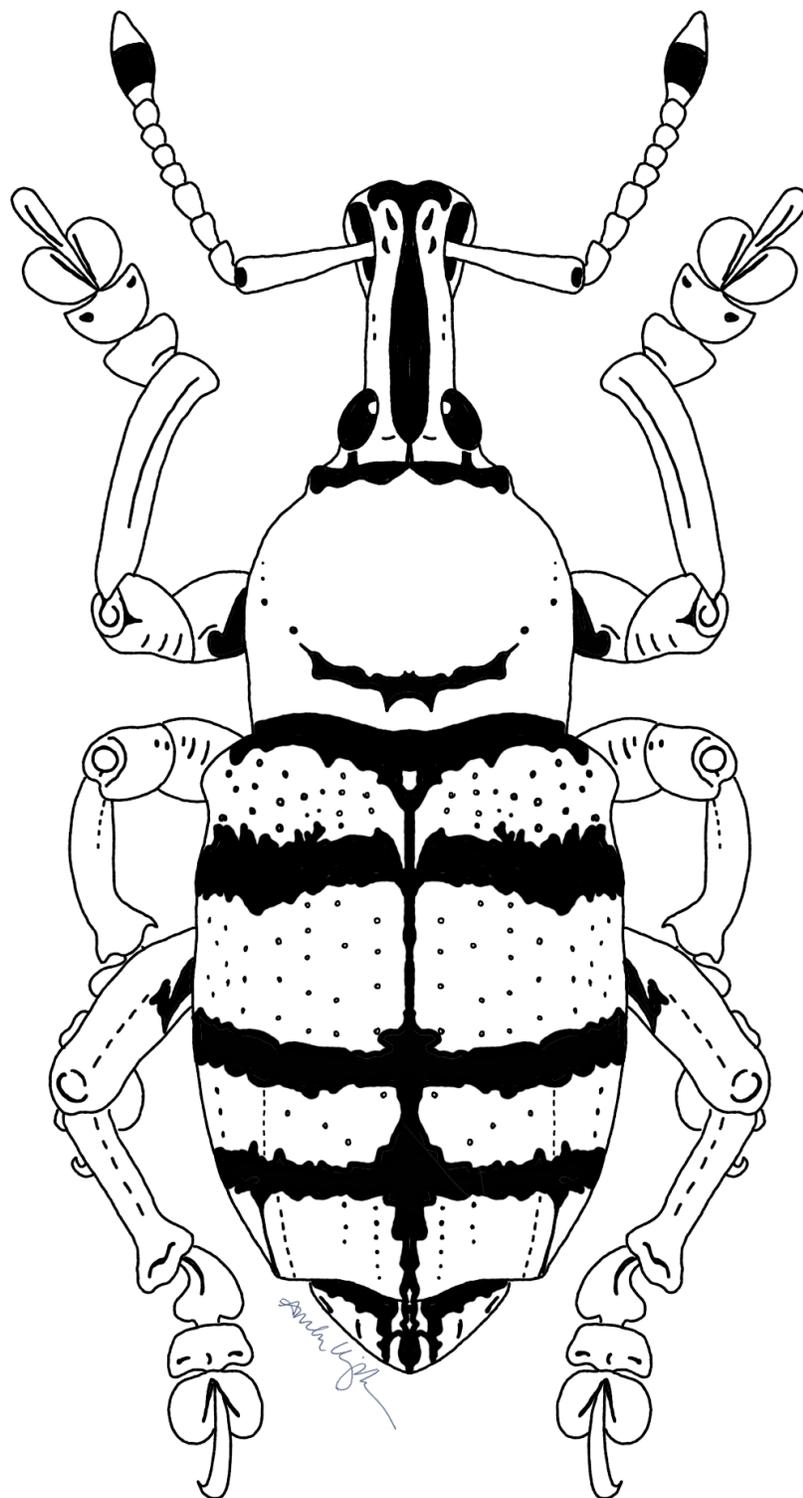
**Chelicerates** (spiders, scorpions, etc.) – have **8** legs

**Crustaceans** (crabs, lobsters, etc.) – have **10** legs

**Myriapods** (centipedes & millipedes) – have **MORE than 10** legs

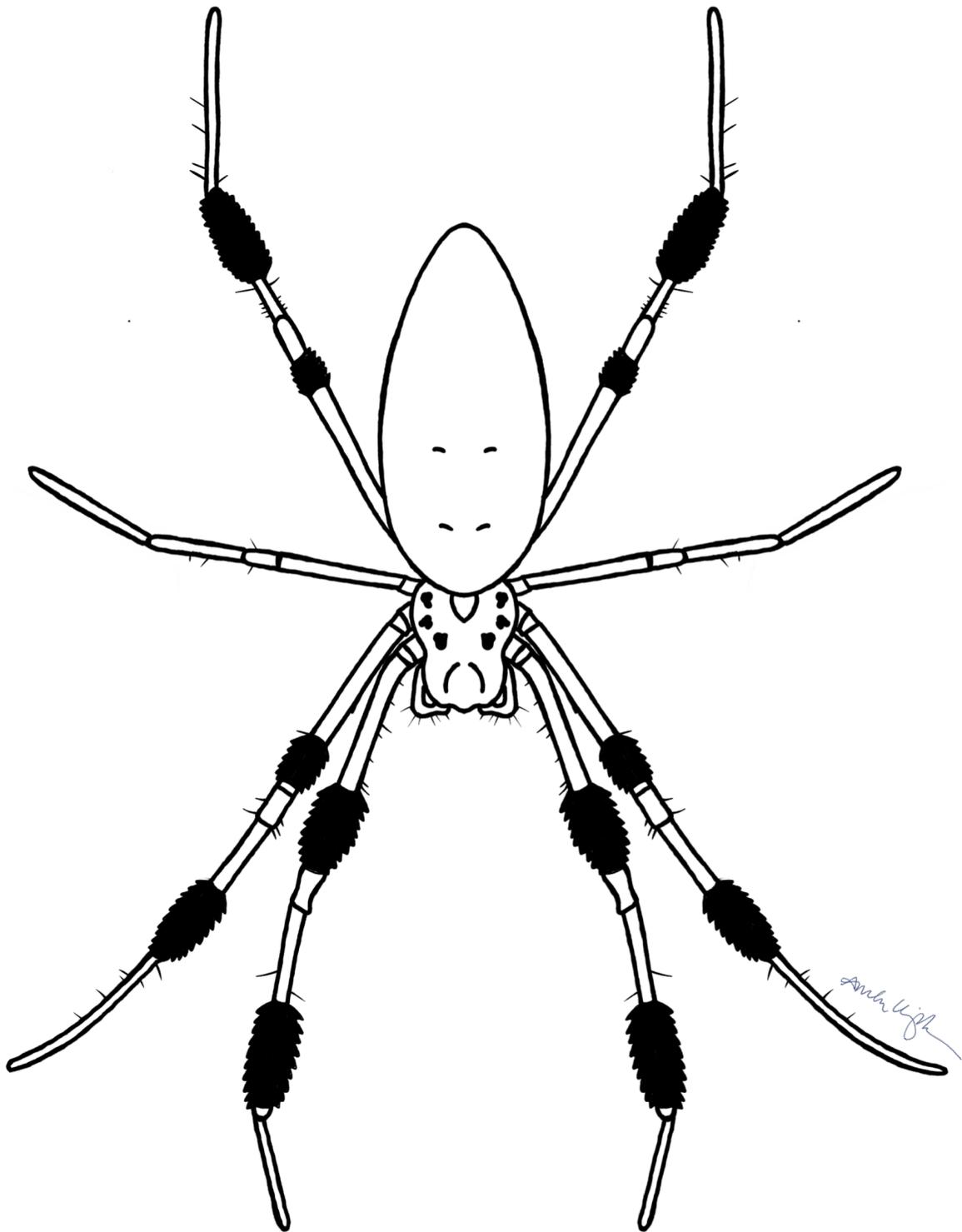
How many legs? \_\_\_\_\_

Which group? \_\_\_\_\_



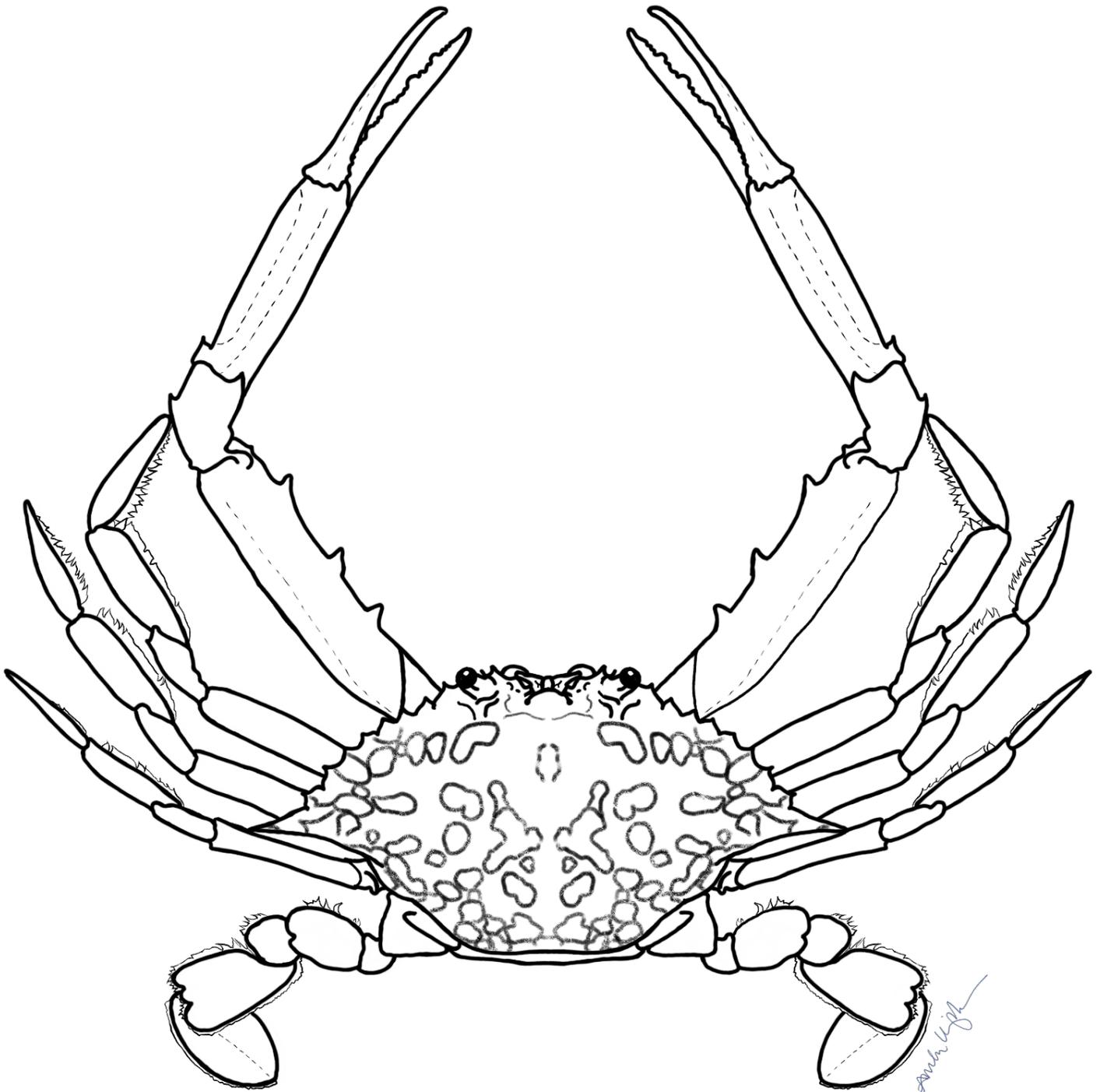
How many legs? \_\_\_\_\_

Which group? \_\_\_\_\_



How many legs? \_\_\_\_\_

Which group? \_\_\_\_\_



How many legs? \_\_\_\_\_

Which group? \_\_\_\_\_

