Madagascar Hissing Cockroach

According to the World Health Organization, cockroaches are "unhygienic scavengers" but we find them fascinating!

Despite its fearsome name, the Madagascar hissing cockroaches are described as hardy, docile, and easy to handle.

Native to Madagascar, it is one of the world's largest cockroach species. In the native habitat, these wood dwellers are found living in fallen and decaying trees or in dry leaf litter.

Did you know?
Cockroaches have a high tollerence to radiation.
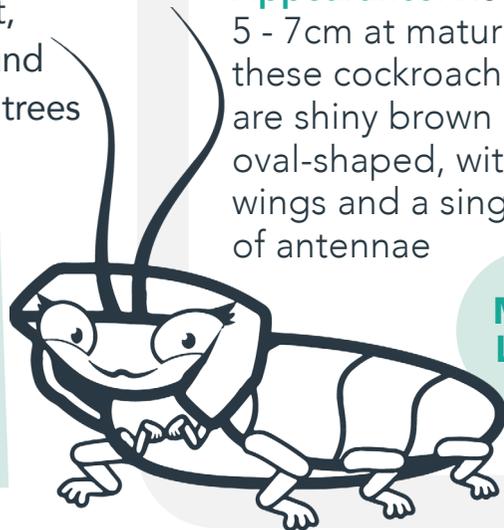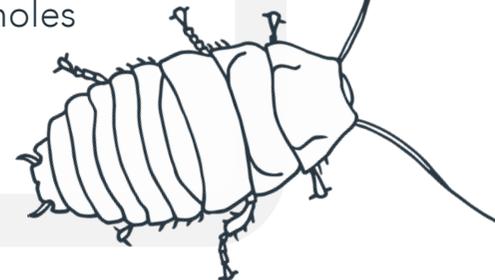
Scientific Name: Gromphadorhina portentosa

Class: Insect

Lifespan: 6 - 12 months

Threats: Arachnids, ants, tenrecs, and some ground-feeding birds are likely predators

Distribution: Madagascar off the African mainland

Habitat: Forest floor

Appearance: Reaching 5 - 7cm at maturity, these cockroaches are shiny brown and oval-shaped, with no wings and a single pair of antennae

Diet & Feeding: Leaf litter, logs, and other detritus

Social Behaviour: They are nocturnal and semi-communal. Males are territorial and have a hierarchy, but they are not social like ants

Males and females: Males sport large horns, which give them an unusual and impressive appearance

Number of young: Females lay and carry upto 60 eggs inside their bodies

Interesting fact: The hiss happens when they exhale air through their breathing holes

Meet Lulu!

Colour us in!

Cockroaches are cannibals!

Roaches aren't fussy eaters at all; they have even taken to eating other cockroaches to settle their rumbling stomachs.

FACT FILE: Cockroaches have existed for over 300 million years! Even dinosaurs had to endure cockroaches.

ZOOLAB

Activity Sheet!
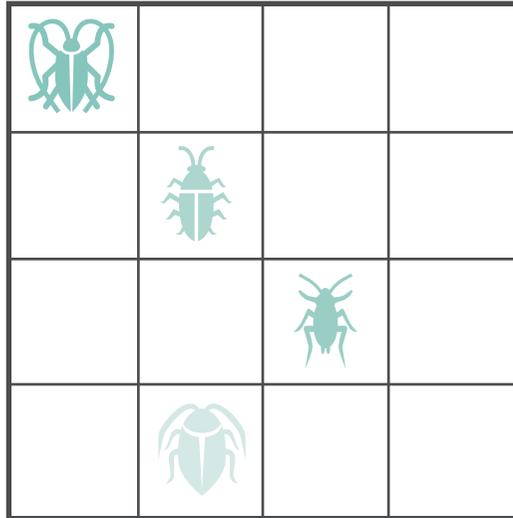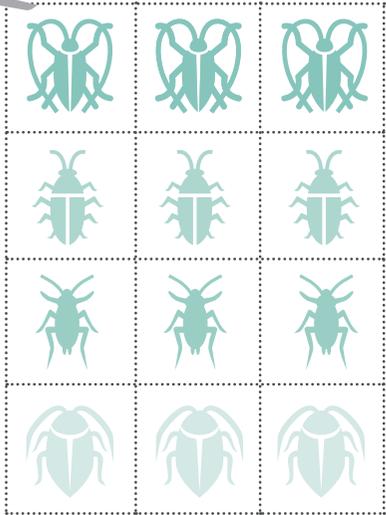
Meet Lala!

Colour me in!

TASK

Find two identical pictures from the insects below
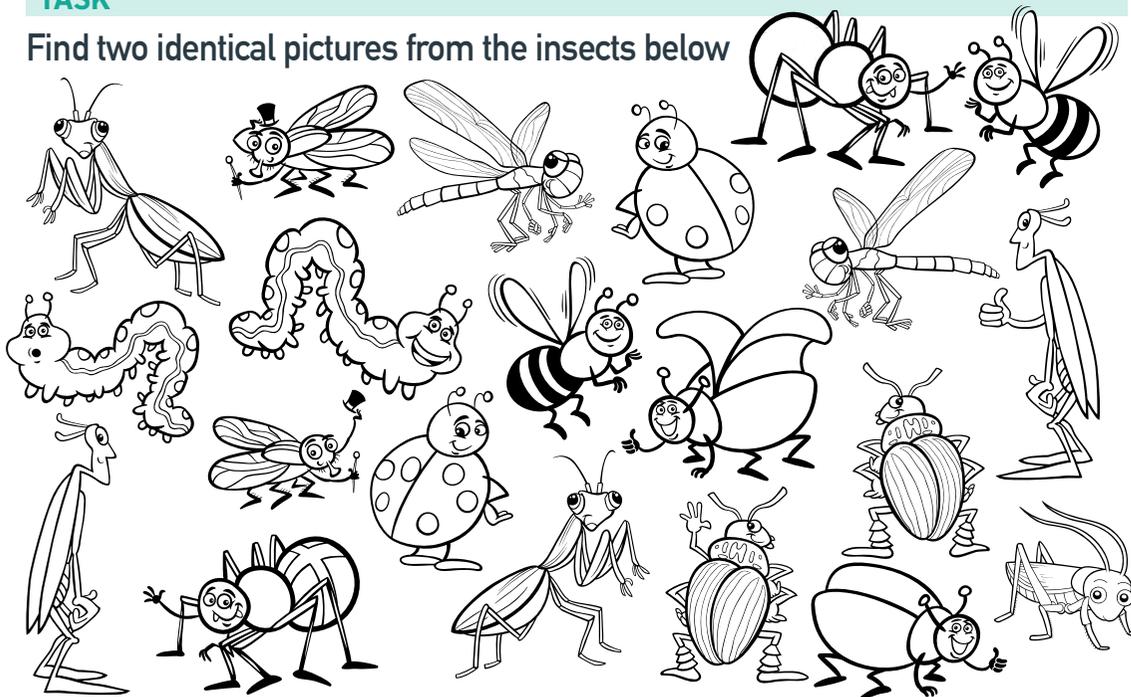
FACT FILE:

Roaches breathe through tiny holes in their body and can survive a week without a head.
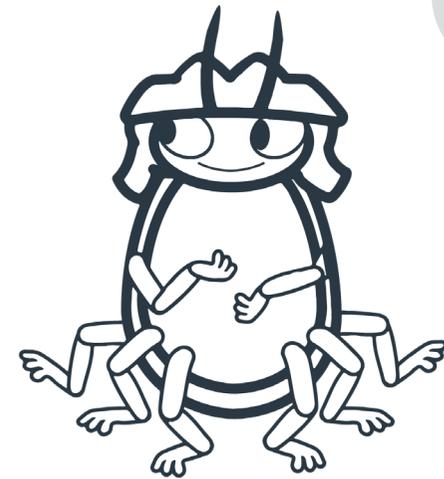
TASK

Circle five differences between the pictures.

Colour us in!