

# 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 tolerance 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

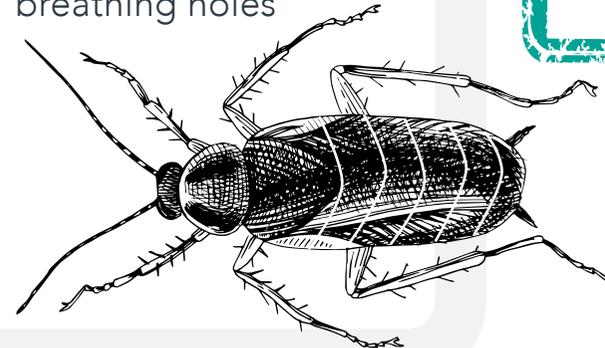
### Males and females:

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



## Cockroaches are cannibals!

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

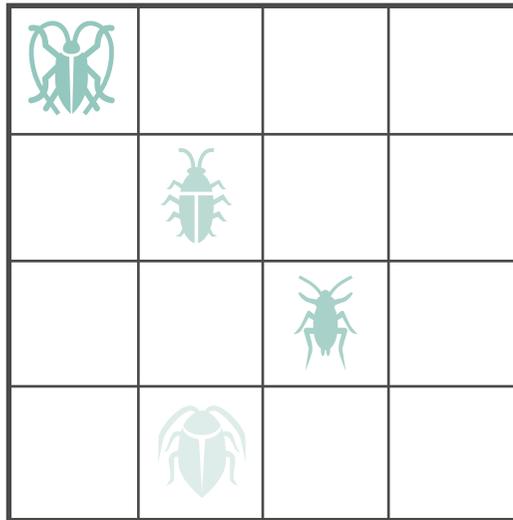
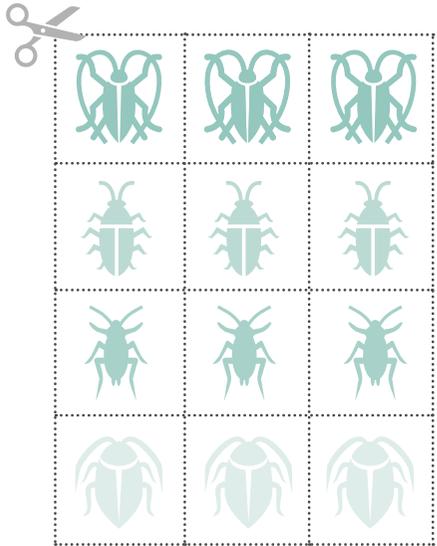
### FACT FILE:

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



ZOOLAB

# Activity Sheet!



## TASK

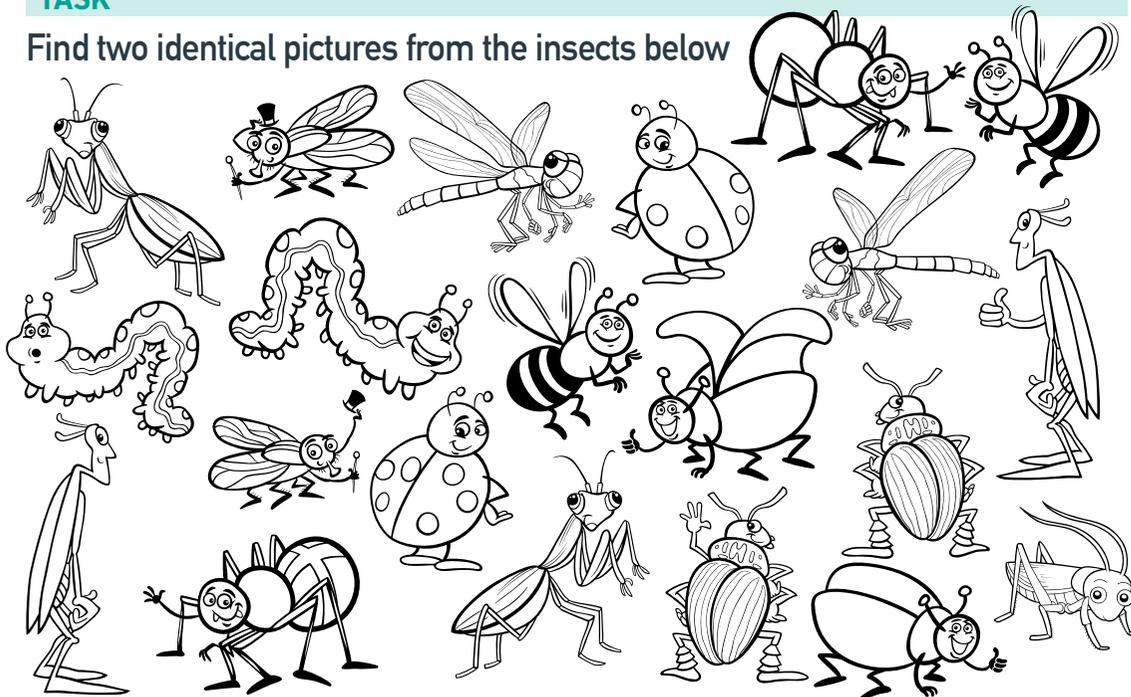
Carefully use scissors to cut out the tiles on the far left (get an adult to help with this). Place the tiles on the board to complete the picture Sudoku.

Every square has to contain picture.

Each row and column can only contain one of each tile with no repeats. Good Luck!

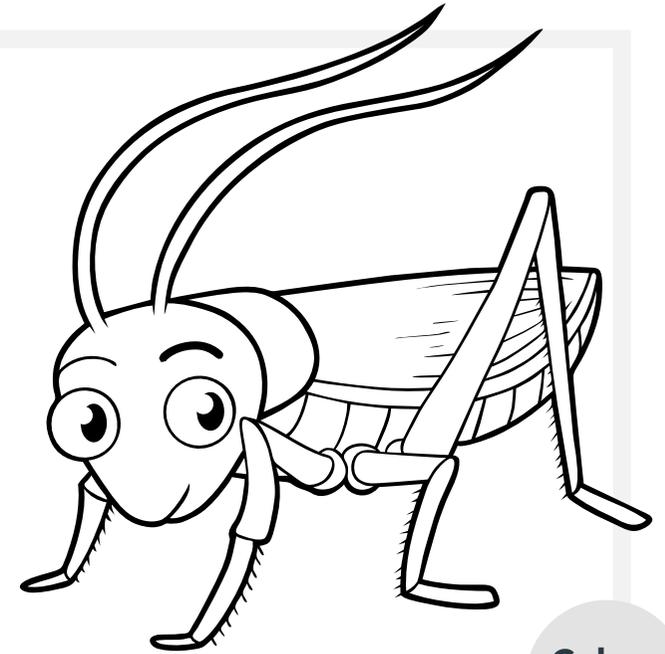
## TASK

Find two identical pictures from the insects below

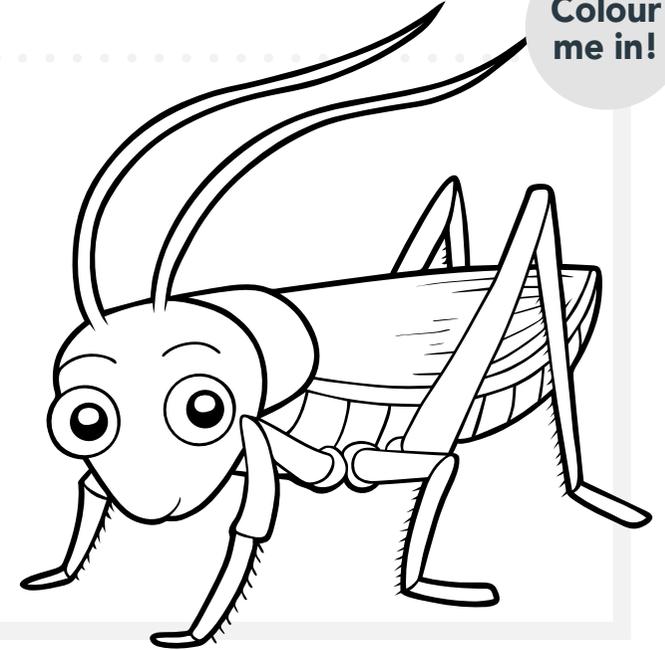


## FACT FILE:

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



Colour me in!



## TASK

Circle five differences between the pictures.

**Colour  
me in!**

