

INSECTS  
— OF THE —  
ARCTIC

# Bugs that Love the Cold





## INSECTS OF THE ARCTIC

# Bugs that Love the Cold

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**INHABIT**  
EDUCATION

Many bugs live in the Arctic. You will find spiders, mosquitoes, flies, and more here. Let's take a look at some common Arctic bugs.





### Did You Know?

Bugs like black flies have six legs. They are called insects. Bugs like spiders have eight legs. They are called **arachnids**.

Some bugs, like snails, have no legs at all!



# Mosquitoes

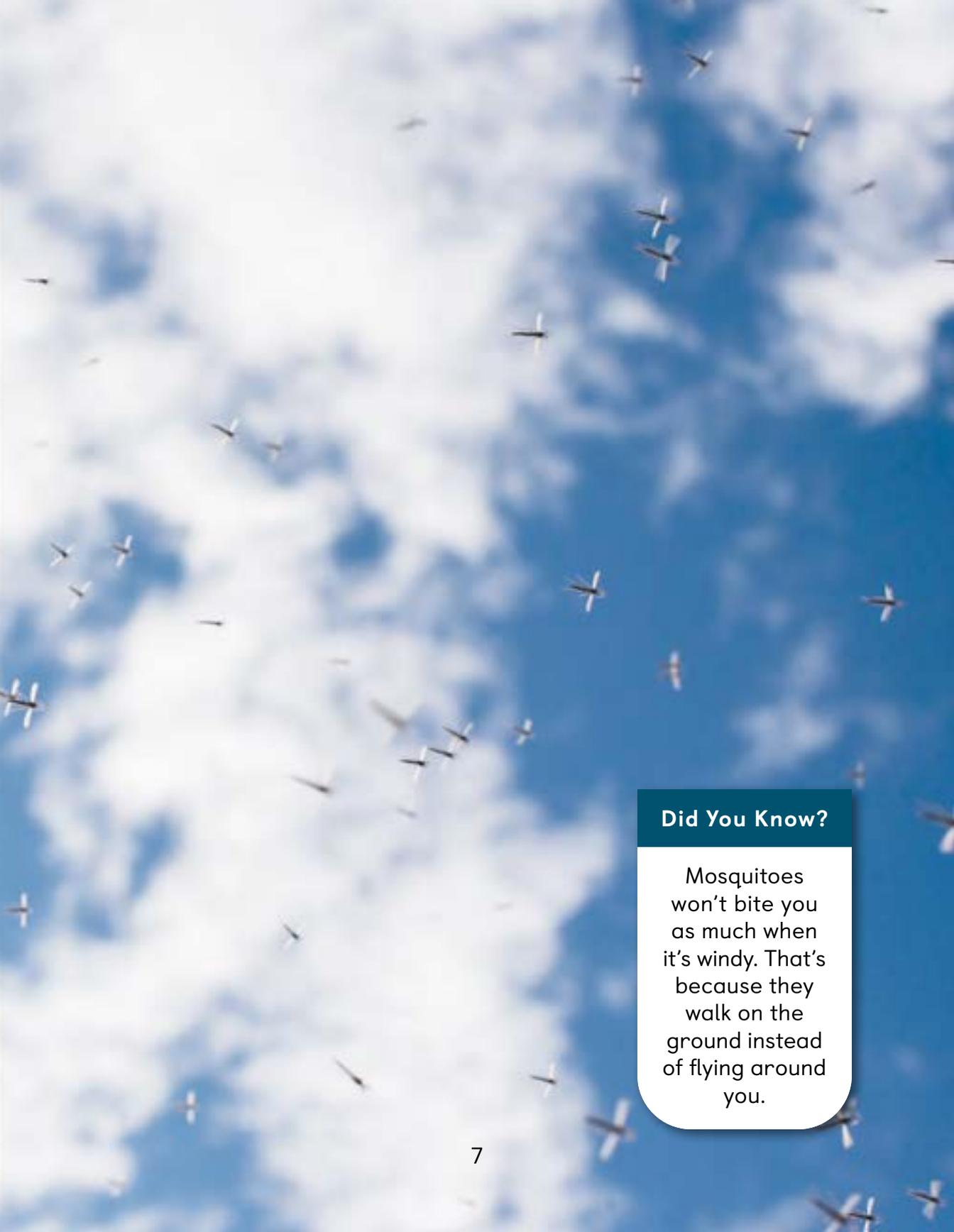
Mosquitoes have long, skinny legs. They have a mouth shaped like a needle. This helps them suck nectar from flowers. The females also suck blood from animals and people. The blood helps them make eggs.

Mosquitoes lay eggs in water. When young mosquitoes hatch, they are great swimmers!



When mosquitoes fly, you can hear the buzzing sound their wings make.

Arctic mosquitoes are darker and hairier than mosquitoes in the south. They like to sit on flowers in the sunshine. They even lay their eggs in the warmest parts of ponds. These differences help mosquitoes stay warm in the Arctic.



### Did You Know?

Mosquitoes won't bite you as much when it's windy. That's because they walk on the ground instead of flying around you.



# Wolf Spiders

Wolf spiders are large. They have eight legs and eight eyes.

Wolf spiders are hunters. They have very good eyesight. Their many eyes help them see what they are hunting. They eat other insects and even other spiders.



When a female wolf spider lays eggs, she makes a **sac** to keep them in. She carries the sac with her to keep the eggs safe.





### Did You Know?

Unlike many spiders, wolf spiders do not make spiderwebs. Instead, they live among dead leaves or dig holes in the ground.



## Non-biting Midges

Non-biting midges are tiny flies with long legs and wings. You will find more non-biting midges than any other fly in the Arctic.

Young midges eat dead leaves and very tiny creatures that we cannot see. Adult midges usually don't eat anything at all!





### Did You Know?

Some young midges are called bloodworms because they are red and look like little worms.

Young midges can live for several years in ponds. They freeze in the winter and thaw in the summer.

Adult midges **pollinate** many flowers in the Arctic.





## Warble Flies

Warble flies are round and hairy. Warble flies love caribou! They lay their eggs on a caribou's legs or belly.

When the eggs hatch, young warble flies chew a hole to get under the caribou's skin. They spend the whole winter under the skin, eating the caribou.





In the spring, the young warble flies drop to the ground. They will soon grow into adults. The adults do not eat. They don't even have mouths!

Sometimes Inuit hunters eat warble fly **larvae** as a snack while skinning caribou.



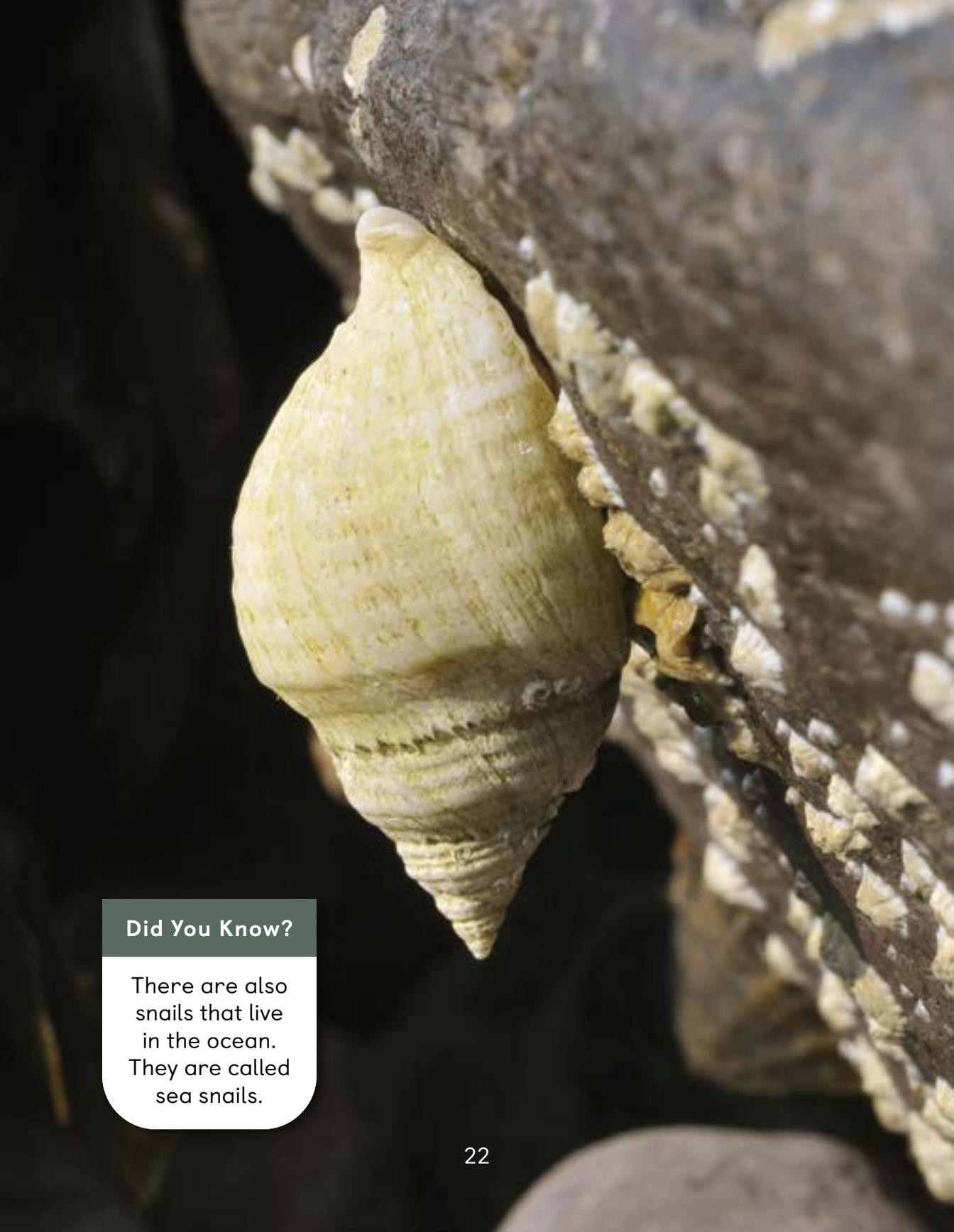


# Freshwater Snails

Freshwater snails live in ponds and lakes in the Arctic. Snails have hard shells that cover their bodies. The shells come in many colours and sizes. They can be very beautiful.

Most freshwater snails like to eat different plants, including algae. Some eat dead fish.



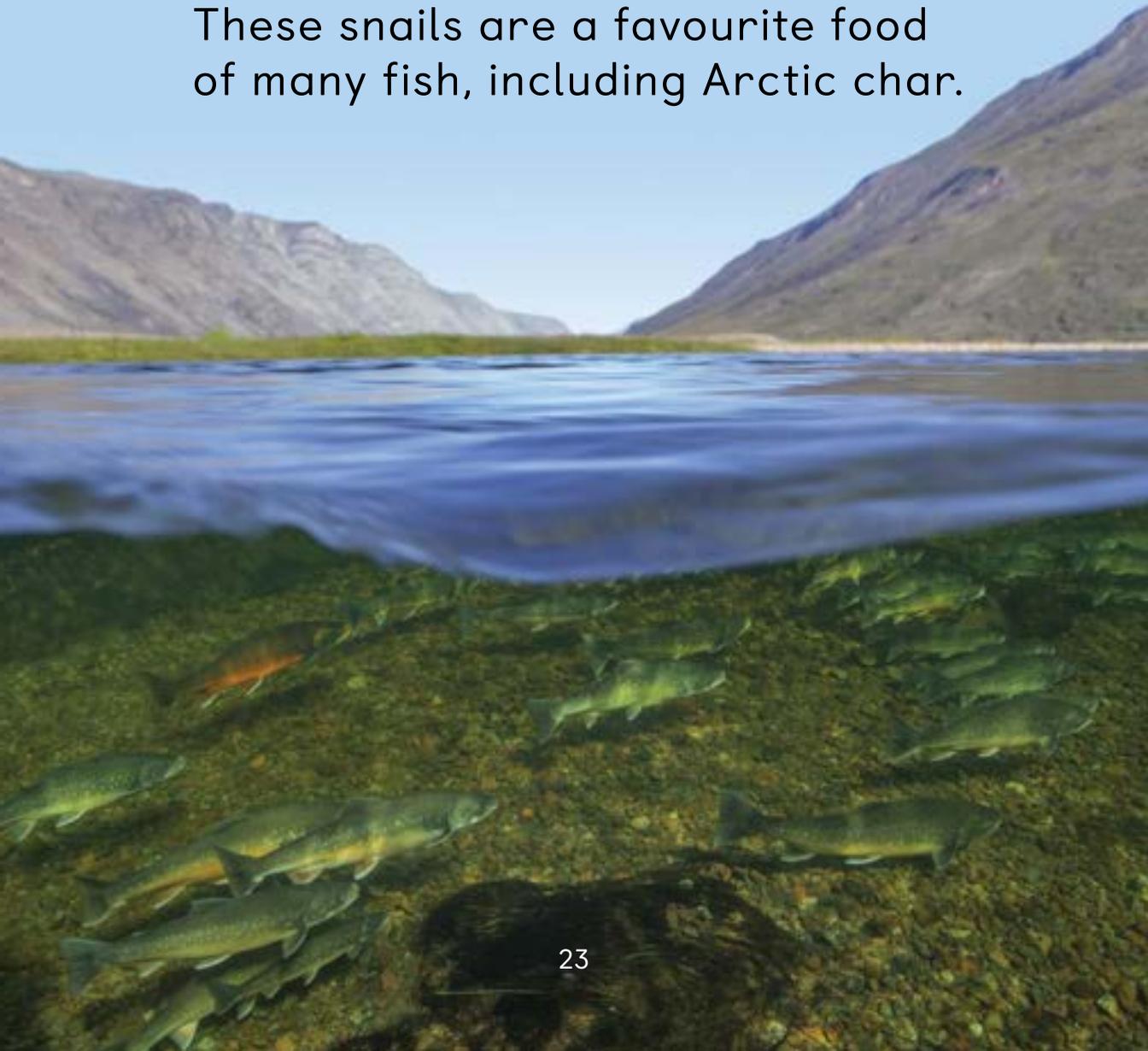


### Did You Know?

There are also snails that live in the ocean. They are called sea snails.

Some snails have gills like fish to breathe underwater. Other snails trap air under their shells and carry it with them.

These snails are a favourite food of many fish, including Arctic char.





# Ground Beetles

Ground beetles have a long, flat body. Most are black. Some are brown, green, or orange-brown.

Ground beetles have two sets of wings. One set is used for flying. The other set is like a hard outer shell that covers and protects the flying wings.

Most ground beetles hunt other insects for food.





### Did You Know?

Beetles in other parts of the world don't like daylight. But in the Arctic, beetles enjoy the long days of sunshine.

Adult ground beetles would rather walk than fly. So look for these beetles on the ground when you are out on the tundra.





# Brush-Footed Butterflies

Brush-footed butterflies usually have orange wings. When they are resting, their wings look like leaves. You might not see them if you don't look carefully!

When the butterfly's eggs hatch, its young are called caterpillars. The caterpillars are hairy. They like to eat sedges and willow leaves.





Many brush-footed butterflies take more than one summer to go from egg to adult.

As caterpillars, they freeze solid in the winter and thaw out in the summer. They can do this for many years. That's a lot of freezing and thawing!



## **Glossary**

### **arachnid**

a small animal that has eight legs.

### **larvae**

young insects before they become adults.

### **pollinate**

to move pollen between plants so the plants can grow and flower.

### **sac**

a structure like a bag that insects and spiders use to carry things.





## Meet the tiny creatures in the air, water, and soil all around you!

The North is full of little creatures that skitter, swim, and fly. This nature book introduces children to insects, spiders, and other Arctic bugs.

### **Nunavummi** Reading Series

The Nunavummi Reading Series is a Nunavut-developed series that supports literacy learning while teaching readers about the people, traditions, and environment of the Canadian Arctic.

#### **Emergent Reader** Levels 8–11

##### Books at this stage:

- include more complicated sentences, with less repetition and patterning
- introduce dialogue
- may include new text features, such as headings, bulleted lists, and glossaries
- include mostly familiar topics and themes, but with some books that may extend beyond children's experiences
- include supportive illustrations or photographs, but more information is now coming from the text

Fountas & Pinnell Text Level: N\*

\*This book has been officially levelled by using the F&P Text Level Gradient™ Leveling System.

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