

# Hissss!

By Nellie Fly  
WORLD'S SMALLEST REPORTER

What's that noise? Is it a snake? No! It's a *Gromphadorhina portentosa* – also known as a **hissing cockroach**.



Found in Madagascar, the hissing cockroach is one big bug. It grows to be three inches (8cm) long! It is also about an inch wide, around the size of a small mouse.

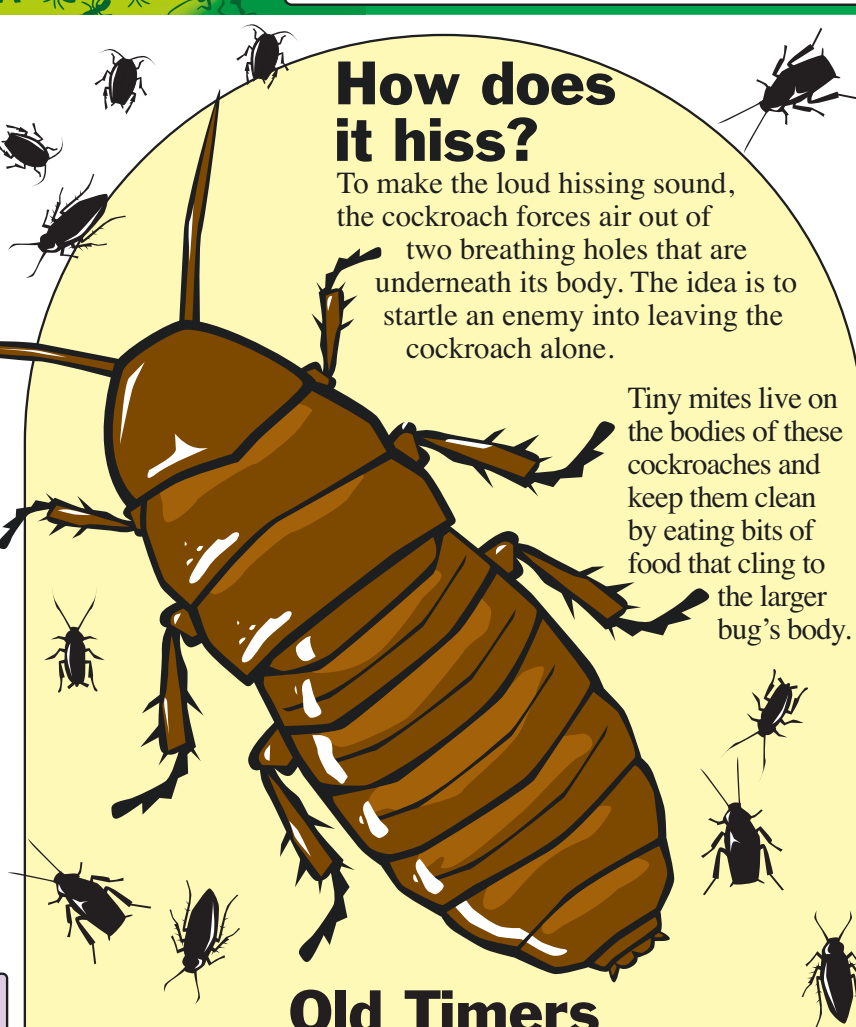
While the hissing cockroach looks a little frightening, it is actually harmless. The only thing it does to protect itself from enemies is to hiss at them.

This dark chocolate brown insect with black edges blends well with the piles of leaves and bark it hides under on the forest floor.

## How does it hiss?

To make the loud hissing sound, the cockroach forces air out of two breathing holes that are underneath its body. The idea is to startle an enemy into leaving the cockroach alone.

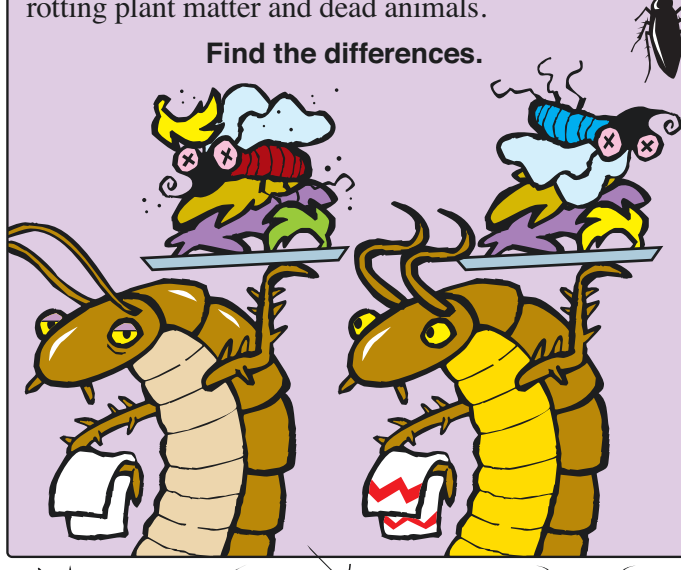
Tiny mites live on the bodies of these cockroaches and keep them clean by eating bits of food that cling to the larger bug's body.



## Cockroach Lunch

How does a pile of rotting leaves with a side of dead fly sound? For the hissing cockroach that sounds like lunch! A hissing cockroach is a **scavenger**, not a **hunter**. That means it doesn't kill for food, but eats whatever it can find on the forest floor, things like rotting plant matter and dead animals.

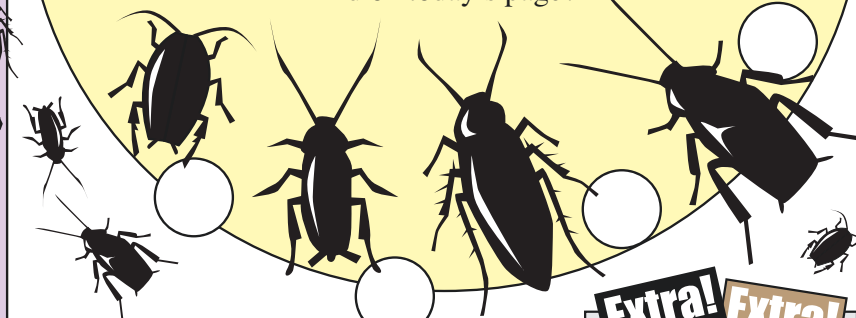
Find the differences.



## Old Timers

Cockroaches are considered "living fossils" because they have survived on Earth some 250 million years, appearing long before dinosaurs. More than 3,500 species of cockroaches exist today.

How many of each type of cockroach can you find on today's page?



## Surprissssssse!

Hissing cockroaches are EFBG.

Write the letter that comes before each letter to find out this surprising fact about the hissing cockroach!

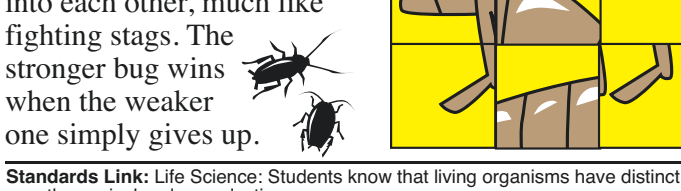
**Extra! Extra!**  
**Scavenger**  
 Hissing cockroaches find their food by scavenging along the forest floor. Can you scavenge through today's newspaper and find:

- three adjectives that describe cockroaches
- something the length of a hissing cockroach
- something the color of a hissing cockroach
- something that can hiss

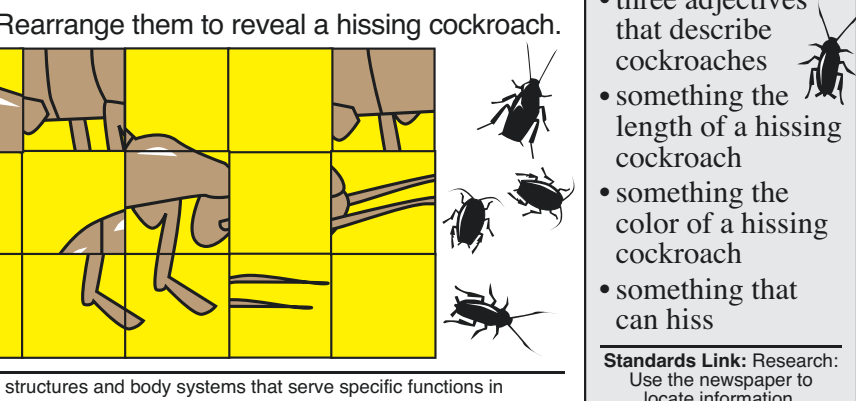
**Standards Link:** Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Bug Battle

The male hissing cockroach has two large "horns." When two males fight, they lower their heads and ram into each other, much like fighting stags. The stronger bug wins when the weaker one simply gives up.



Cut out these squares. Rearrange them to reveal a hissing cockroach.

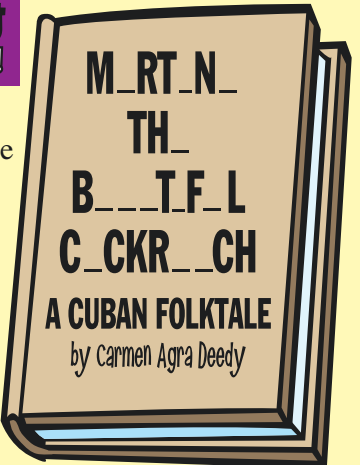


**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know that living organisms have distinct structures and body systems that serve specific functions in growth, survival and reproduction.

## Catch the Reading Bug at Your Library This Summer!

Martina the cockroach doesn't know coffee beans about love and marriage. Her grandmother, Abuela, gives her some shocking advice!

"You want me to do *what*?" Martina gasps. To find out what Abuela said, read the book.



Fill in the missing vowels to reveal the title of this book. Then, check it out at your local library this summer! - Bert Bookworm

M \_ R T \_ N \_  
 T H \_  
 B \_ \_ T F \_ L  
 C \_ C K R \_ \_ C H  
 A C U B A N F O L K T A L E  
 by Carmen Agra Deedy

## Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

COCKROACH  
 MADAGASCAR  
 FOSSILS  
 THORAX  
 MITES  
 HARMLESS  
 BATTLE  
 HUNTER  
 MOUSE  
 EXIST  
 PROTECT  
 BROWN  
 FIGHT  
 HORNS

O D O R E T N U H D  
 P X E S N R O H C A  
 R A C S A G A D A M  
 O R B F L R M E O B  
 T O R A M I S O R T  
 E H A L T U S O K H  
 C T E E O T W S C G  
 T S S M C N L H O I  
 S E S T S I X E C F

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Bug Battle News

Select a sports article and rewrite it as if it was news about a battle between two male hissing cockroaches. Be sure your rewritten article tells the *who, what, when, where, why* and *how* of the event.

**Standards Link:** Writing Applications: Write expressive compositions that express ideas.

There were five cockroaches in the kitchen. Which one was the football player?



ANSWER: The one in the sugar bowl!

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