

# Millipede

Invertebrate - no backbone

Myriapod— many legs, segmented body, one pair of antennae and an exoskeleton



## Habitat

Typically forest floor dwellers, they live in leaf litter, dead wood, or soil.



Where every continent except Antarctica



## Diet

HERBIVORE

They are detritivores, they feed on decaying vegetation mixed with soil



## Protection from predators

They curl into a tight coil – protecting their delicate legs inside a hard exoskeleton. Some millipedes emit a foul-smelling liquid. Some of these liquids can burn the exoskeleton insect predators, or the skin and eyes of larger predators.

## Behaviour

Millipedes often burrow into the soil.



They will go deeper underground to moult, to lay eggs, and to avoid cold or drought.

## Interesting facts

Some rare species can have 750 legs, however, common species have between 80 and 400 legs.



The name Millipede derives from Latin roots, 'milli' meaning 'thousand' and 'ped' meaning foot.

Millipedes have two pairs of legs attached to each segment of its body, except the very first segment behind the head and the next few segments which only have one pair of legs each.

[Click here for an invertebrate ID sheet to take on your own invertebrate hunt.](#)

[Here is a simple craft idea to make your own creepy crawly.](#)