

# Insect Super Abilities

## Intro

Insects have many super abilities. They can build complex structures. They can produce amazing materials from their own bodies. Plus, they perform many important tasks that make our world a better place.

## Pollinate Crops

- Pollination is an essential process for plants to create healthy fruit and seeds. Scientifically, pollination is the movement of pollen from anther of a flower to the stigma of the same or another flower.
- Some plants, for example squash and cucumbers, require insects to carry pollen from flower to flower. Without this pollination assistance, fruit and/or seeds would not be formed.
- About a third of the food we eat is the direct result of pollination by insects.

## Make Wax and Honey

- Honey bees have more than one super ability. They can make wax using glands from their bodies. After they use the wax to make a honeycomb, they fill it with nectar that they process into honey. Amazing!



## Ability to Make Paper

The paper wasps get their name from the fact they build a nest of a papery material made of wood fibers and saliva mixed together. The nest contains openings or cells where the eggs are laid, and the workers care for the larvae and pupae.



Silkworm moth

## Make Silk

Insects like the silkworm have the special ability to make silk. We use it to make clothes, furniture, fishing line, and even parachutes.



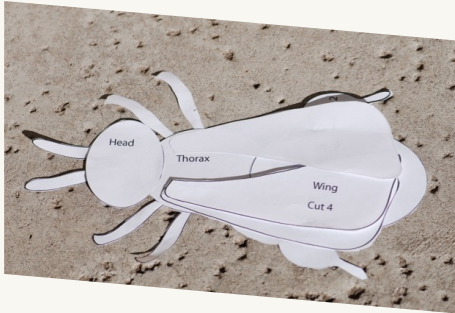
## Build Mud Houses

Mud dauber and potter wasps, as well as certain termites, use mud or clay to build elaborate nests.



# Insect Super Abilities

Make it like an insect!



## Paper

- Draw an insect on paper
- Color a coloring sheet
- Make a paper mache model
- Fold an origami insect
- Cut out paper insects

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## Insect Snacks

Celebrate the fact that insects pollinate many food crops by making a fun insect-shaped snack.



## Wax

- Make an insect-shaped candle out of beeswax.
- Crayons are made of paraffin, which is an example of wax. Create a resist drawing of an insect using crayon wax or beeswax.



## Clay model

Use modelling clay, air dry clay, or even clay soil and natural materials like twigs and leaves to make a model of an insect.