

Millipedes vs. Centipedes

Overview: Join the Missoula Insectarium’s Carolyn Taber to discover the similarities and differences of two misunderstood creatures: the millipede and centipede. We will learn to identify these organisms, ask questions about them and watch a feeding!

Presenting organizations: The Montana Natural History Center and the Missoula Insectarium and Butterfly House

Target grade levels: 3-5

Duration of video: 20 minutes

Duration with questions: 30 minutes

Student objectives:

- ~ SWBAT understand the main differences between the millipede and centipede
- ~ Increase awareness and understanding of these organisms

Standards Supported:

NGSS

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Asking questions Constructing explanations	<u>LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes</u> <u>LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics</u> <u>LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity</u>	Patterns Structure and function

Key concepts and vocabulary:

One of the main myths that we will bust today is all about leg count.

- Myth: Million legs on a millipede, 100 legs on a centipede. Neither one has a fixed number of legs. All spiders will have 8 legs. That's a hard and fast rule. Millipedes and centipedes don't have that same kind of rule. Instead they're more like a train. Not all trains have the same number of wheels BUT each train CAR does.
- All millipedes have 4 legs on each SEGMENT of their body
- All centipedes have 2 legs on each SEGMENT of their body

Poisonous: The term poisonous applies to organisms that **unload** toxins when you eat/touch/inhale them.

Venomous: The term venomous is applied to organisms that **bite (or sting)** to inject their toxins.