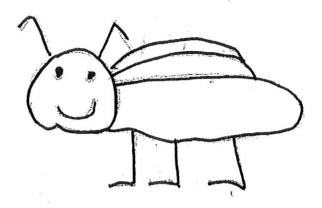
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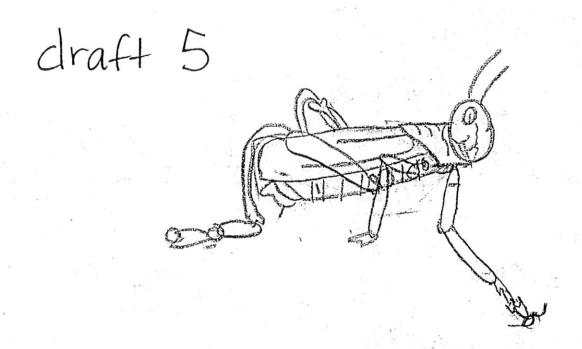
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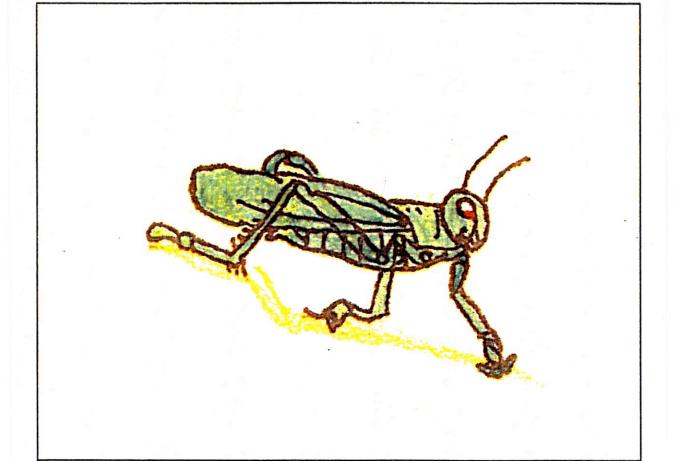
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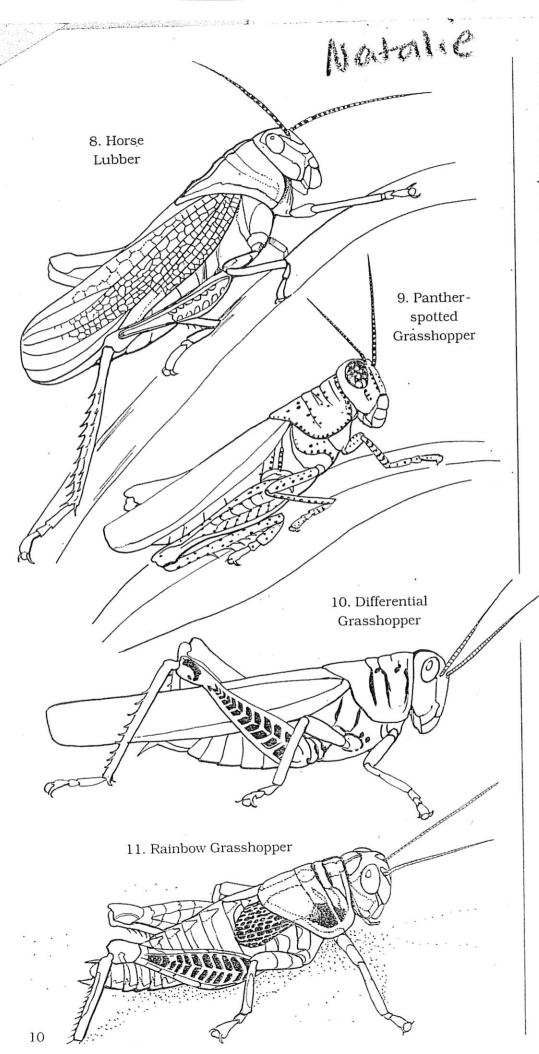


A grasshopper has two antennae, big eyes, a mouth, and strong legs. Some grasshoppers have eardrums on their sides. Grasshoppers are found in tall grassy fields. A grasshopper spits brown bitter liquid to protect itself. Grasshoppers eat plants and tall grass. They jump high; that makes them champion jumpers.

## BY: NOtalle

These cards were created by second grade students from Alice B. Beal School, a public school in Springfield, Massachusetts. They reflect the children's study of insects.

Alice B. Beal Magnet School: An Expeditionary Learning School



## Grasshoppers, Crickets, and Katydids (Orthoptera)

Children have a lot of fun with grasshoppers, chasing them as they leap with their very long, jointed, and muscular hind leas. Many kinds can also fly, adding variety to the chase. When you do catch them, you often get "tobacco juice" on your hands — actually a bitter defensive chemical. Most are the same color as the foliage they feed on with their big mouthparts, but some are brightly colored.They make their songs by grinding scrapers on their wings or legs together, almost like the bow of a stringed instrument. Others, such as swarming locusts, vie with farmers for crops.

Horse Lubber (8) This colorful grasshopper lives in desert scrub and oak woods in the Southwest. Like many others, it makes clicking noises when it flies, displaying its bright red wings.

Panther-spotted Grasshopper (9) Another bright grasshopper of the American Southwest, the Panther-spotted likes grasslands, where it feeds on the foliage of plants in the sunflower family. The female lays her egg masses, as do many grasshoppers, in the soil.

Differential Grasshopper (10)
Common throughout the country in grassy places, this creature may be identified by the strong diagonal pattern on its hindlegs. It is a cousin to the abundant brown and green grasshoppers that enliven almost every yard or garden.

Rainbow Grasshopper (11)
Spotting one of these brilliant
hoppers is a real surprise. This
and the closely related Painted
Grasshopper live in the Rocky
Mountain West, among grasses
and alfalfa.

