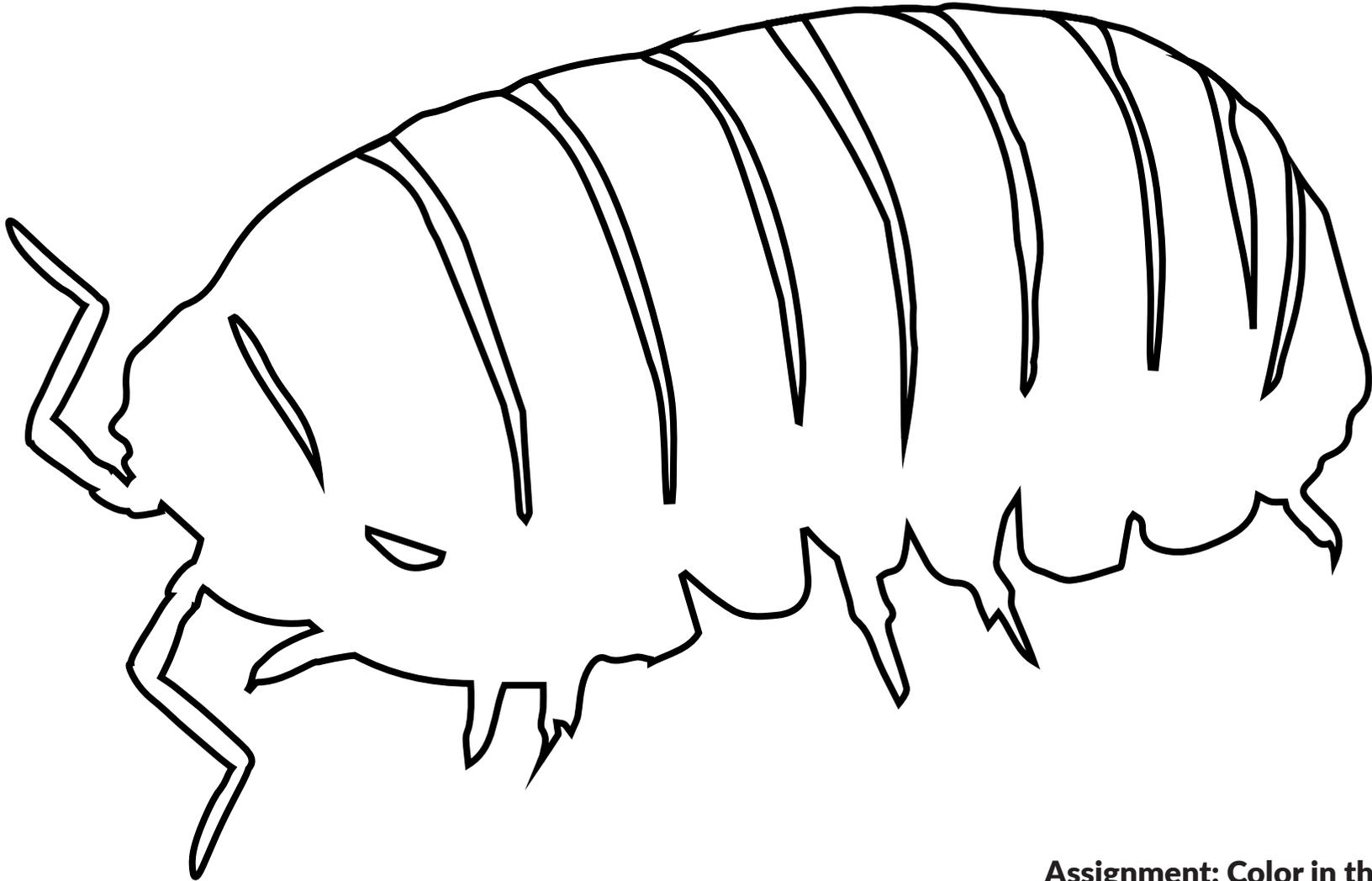




Learning at Home Zoo Med Assignment: Preschool-1st Grade

“In My Own Back Yard”

Even if they're very tiny, creatures are all around us and play important roles in our environment. One type of creature that's easy to find and fun to learn about is an Isopod! Isopods go by many names, and are also called “Roly Polys”, “Pill Bugs”, “Sow Bugs”, etc.



Assignment: Color in this Isopod!

BONUS: Learning about creatures activity

Follow the Instructions to create an Isopod habitat from supplies at home. You can observe their behavior and enjoy keeping these incredible creatures as a fun science project for people of all ages.

Materials:

- Container that allows for air circulation (Jar, plastic box, etc...)
- Soil
- Dry leaves
- Rotting wood
- Moss
- Water

Steps:

1. Clean your container with water.
2. Carefully poke holes in your container or lid.
3. Add soil, leaves, rotting wood, and moss.
4. Find Isopods and add them to your jar!
5. Add water when necessary to make a damp substrate.
6. See the Isopod Care Sheet at Zoomed.com

FUN FACTS ABOUT ROLY-POLIES

- Isopods have many different names. What do you call them?
- Isopods are not actually bugs. Like shrimp, lobster, and crabs they are crustaceans.
- Isopods live about 2 years.
- Isopods are often nocturnal and most active at night.
- Isopods have 7 pairs of jointed legs
- There are 4,000 species of Isopods found throughout the world.
- Many terrestrial Isopods eat rotting vegetation but can consume a wide variety of different food items.
- Mothers carry eggs in a pouch called a marsupium – after they hatch, they stay in the pouch with their mother for several days before leaving
- They are important for ridding the soil of heavy metal by taking in copper, zinc, lead, arsenic, and cadmium – they can survive in contaminated soil where other species can't
- They are the only land crustacean!
- Babies are born with only 6 pairs of legs