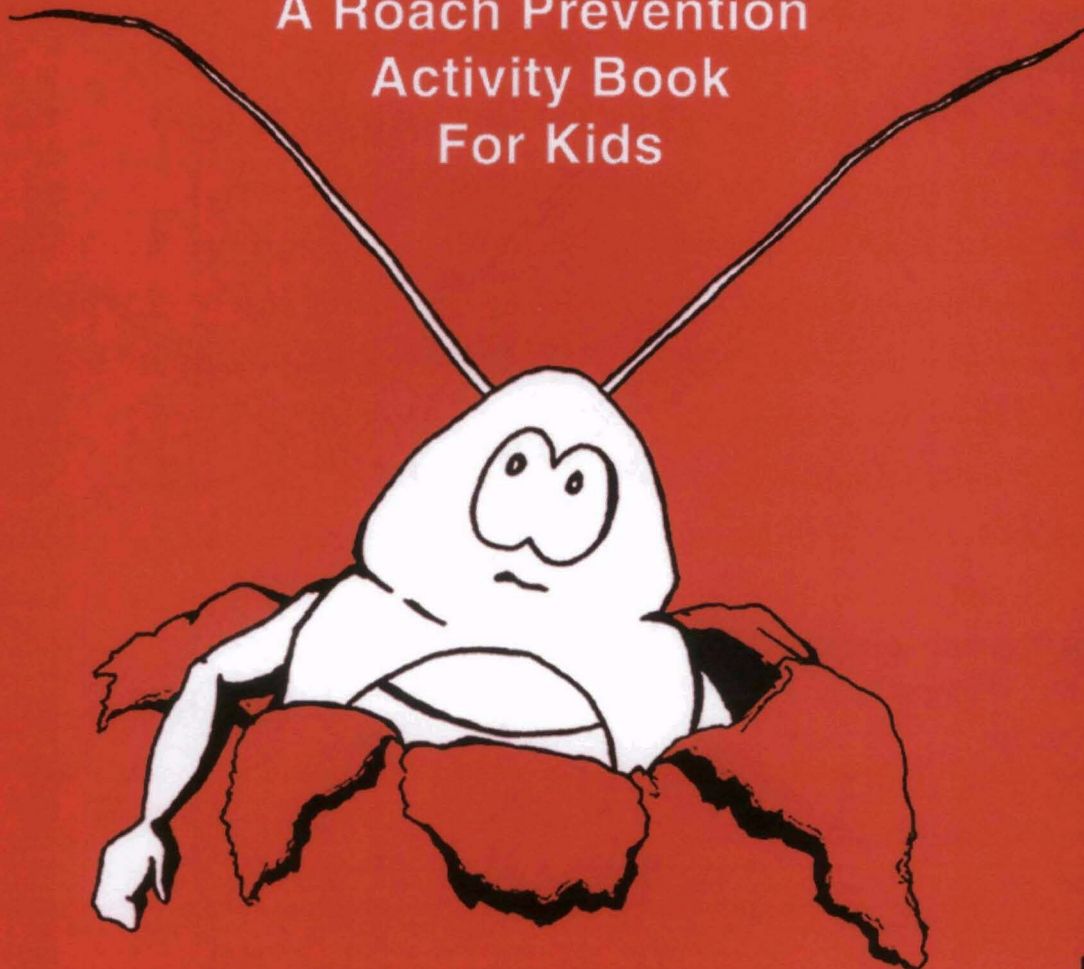


# HELP! IT'S A ROACH!

A Roach Prevention  
Activity Book  
For Kids



Turn the page and  
find out more!!!





# HEY READERS!

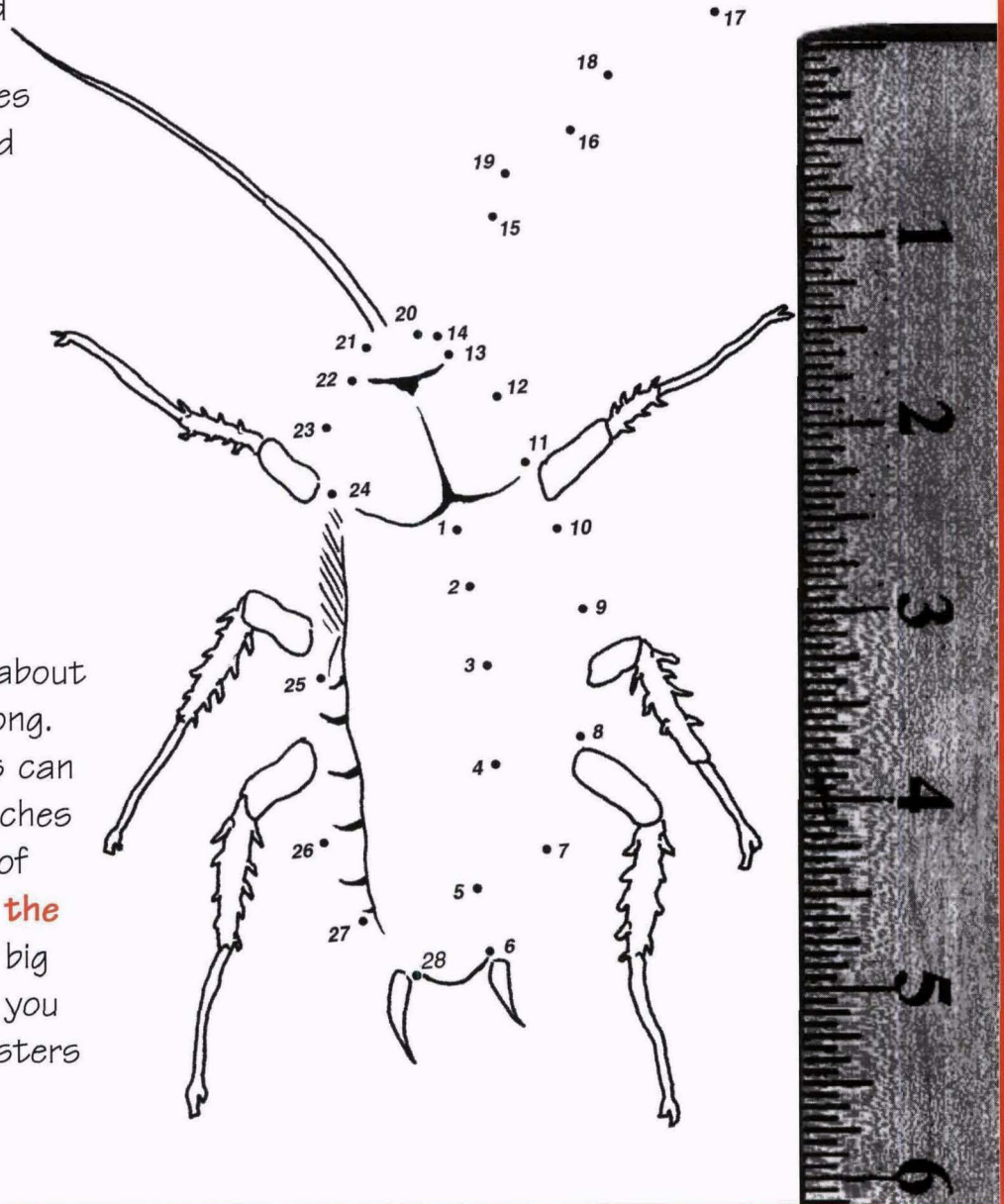
Is your family bugged by roaches? You're not alone. Although people may think roaches like dirty places, even the cleanest homes can have them.

Roaches are one of the most common household pests. Once they move into your home, they multiply quickly. That makes them even harder to control.

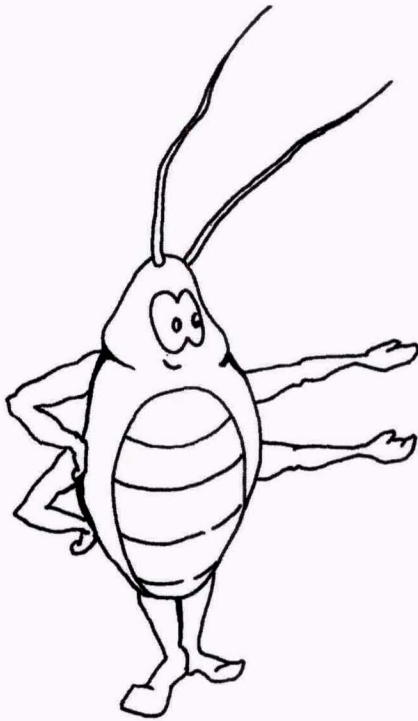
When roaches are around, most people reach for the roach spray right away. These sprays contain poisons called pesticides because they kill or drive away pests like roaches. But pesticides may be harmful if they are used the wrong way. Your family can do a lot of things to control roaches before you need to use a pesticide. Read this booklet and complete the activities to learn what kids and adults can do.

## LET'S START NOW!

The average roach is about 1/2 inch to 2 inches long. But, the biggest ones can grow as long as six inches and have a wingspan of over a foot! **Connect the dots** to see just how big that is! Fortunately, you won't find these monsters in your home!



# Fascinating Roach Facts



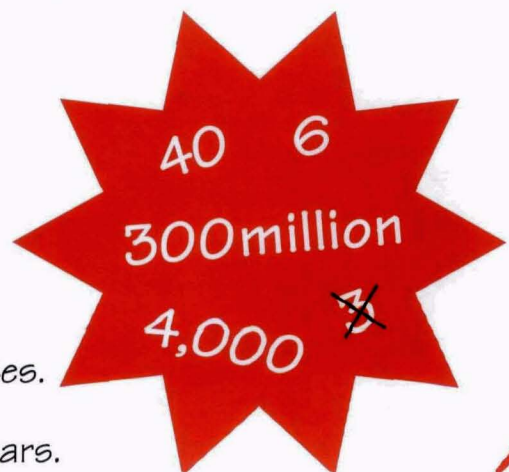
## Did You Know?

- Roaches have blood that is almost white and breathe through their sides.
- Roaches have been on our planet since before the dinosaurs. That's millions of years!
- What?! Roaches can swim? That's right. A roach can hold its breath for 40 minutes too!
- Most roaches live in tropical places like rain forests. Even though there are thousands of different kinds, only about 5 are commonly found in people's homes.

Fill in the blank with the number that correctly completes the sentence.

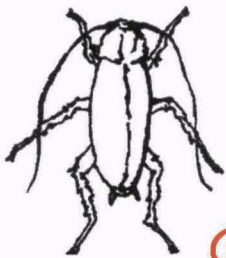
**HINT:** Use each number one time.

1. A roach can run   3   miles per hour.
2. There are about          kinds of roaches.
3. Roaches have          legs.
4. Roaches can hold their breath for          minutes.
5. Roaches have been around for                  years.

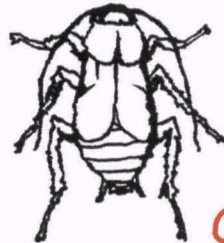




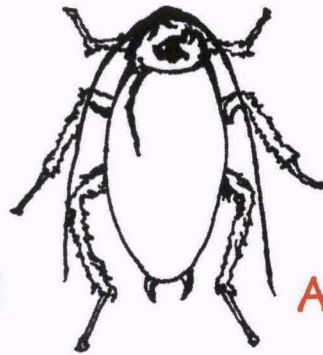
# Roaches Are Everywhere!



German



Oriental



American

**Count** how many roaches there are of each type.

*Hint: Make your counting easier by filling in each different kind of roach with a different color.*





Roaches are OK when they are outside, but they don't belong in your home. They can smell bad, they can ruin food, and some people are allergic to them. So, how do you prevent roaches from partying in your home?



# Starve Them Out!

- ✓ Clean up spills and crumbs right away!
- ✓ Don't leave open bags of food or candy lying around!
- ✓ Eat at the table instead of walking around the house with food!
- ✓ Clean your dirty dishes right away!
- ✓ Keep a tight lid on trash and empty it often!
- ✓ Don't leave pet food out overnight!

*They make good food for roaches.*

*Roaches will climb in with ease.*

*Roaches will follow your trail of crumbs wherever you go.*

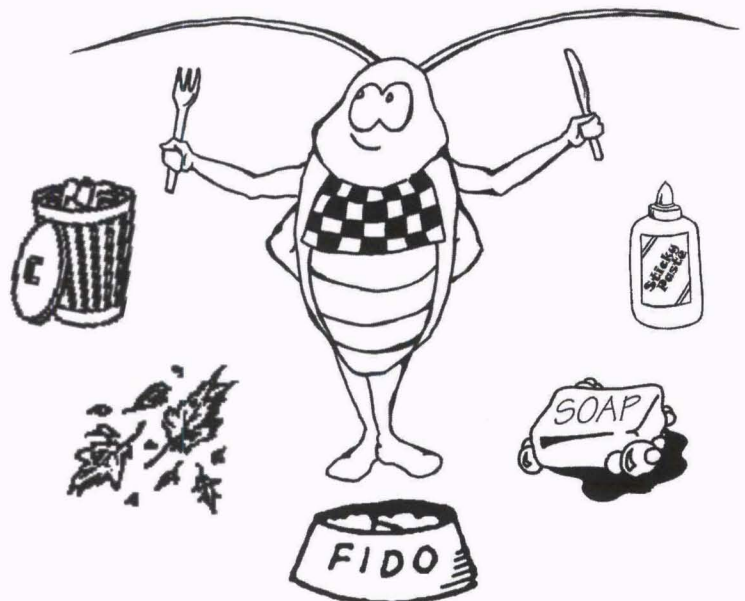
*Roaches will want whatever is left of your meal.*

*It may be trash to you, but it is dinner to them.*

*People food or pet food, roaches will eat it all.*

## FACT

A roach can find a snack just about anywhere. They eat crumbs, pet food, dead leaves, and trash. If they get really hungry, they might eat glue or soap.





# Come and Get It!

Hurry, get rid of the roach dinners in this kitchen before the roaches find them. Put an X through the ones you see.



# Dry Them Out!

✓ Remember to turn off the water after you brush your teeth!

✓ Wipe water off the counters when you see it!

✓ Drain dishwater out of the sink!

✓ Report leaky faucets, radiators, dishwashers, and washing machines to adults!

*Even a drop can be enough to satisfy a roach.*

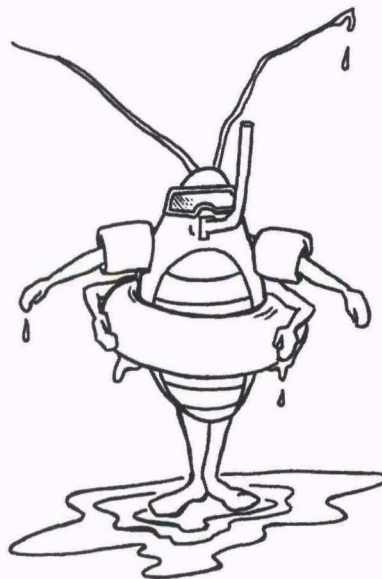
*Puddles are roach magnets.*

*Roaches can swim, so a sink full of water is a pool party waiting to happen.*

*You can help spot these hidden sources of water.*

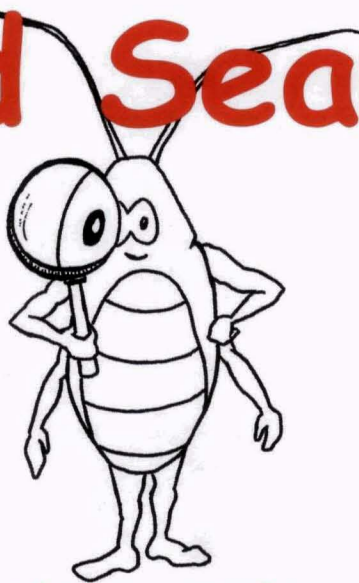
## FACT

Roaches need **water** to live. Without it, they die within a week even though they can live up to a month without food.





# Water Word Search



Find these words:

*Hint:* Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backward.

PIPES, LEAKS, SINK, DRIP,  
BATHROOM, RADIATOR, WATER

Z	C	D	J	P	C	K	H	S	X
R	G	J	W	M	Q	L	O	I	G
W	A	T	E	R	B	U	P	N	R
L	H	T	X	S	A	Q	C	K	W
R	A	D	I	A	T	O	R	E	M
P	V	B	I	H	H	P	B	J	L
I	C	E	K	O	R	A	R	L	D
P	F	A	S	J	O	F	K	E	P
E	R	L	Q	B	O	D	H	A	C
S	Z	M	E	D	M	Y	N	K	S
D	R	I	P	T	I	U	G	S	V

# Keep Them Out!

- ✓ Check things like boxes and bags for roaches before bringing them into the house!
- ✓ Get rid of stacks of newspapers, paper bags, and cardboard boxes!
- ✓ Show your parents cracks or openings around baseboards and behind kitchen and bathroom counters!
- ✓ Help your parents look for spaces under doors and around pipes or vents!

They could be getting a free ride into your home.

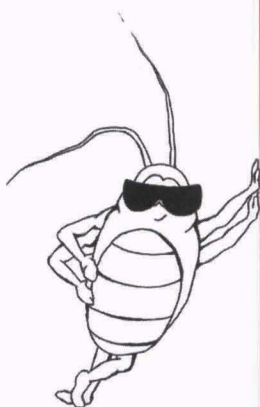
These make good hiding places for roaches.

Roaches can come in through very small openings.

These openings are welcome signs to roaches.

## FACT

Roaches spend most of their lives hiding. They love cracks and can squeeze in just about anywhere. Young roaches can fit into a space as thin as a dime. An adult male needs a crack about the thickness of a quarter. Female roaches carrying eggs need more room - a space as tall as 2 stacked nickels.

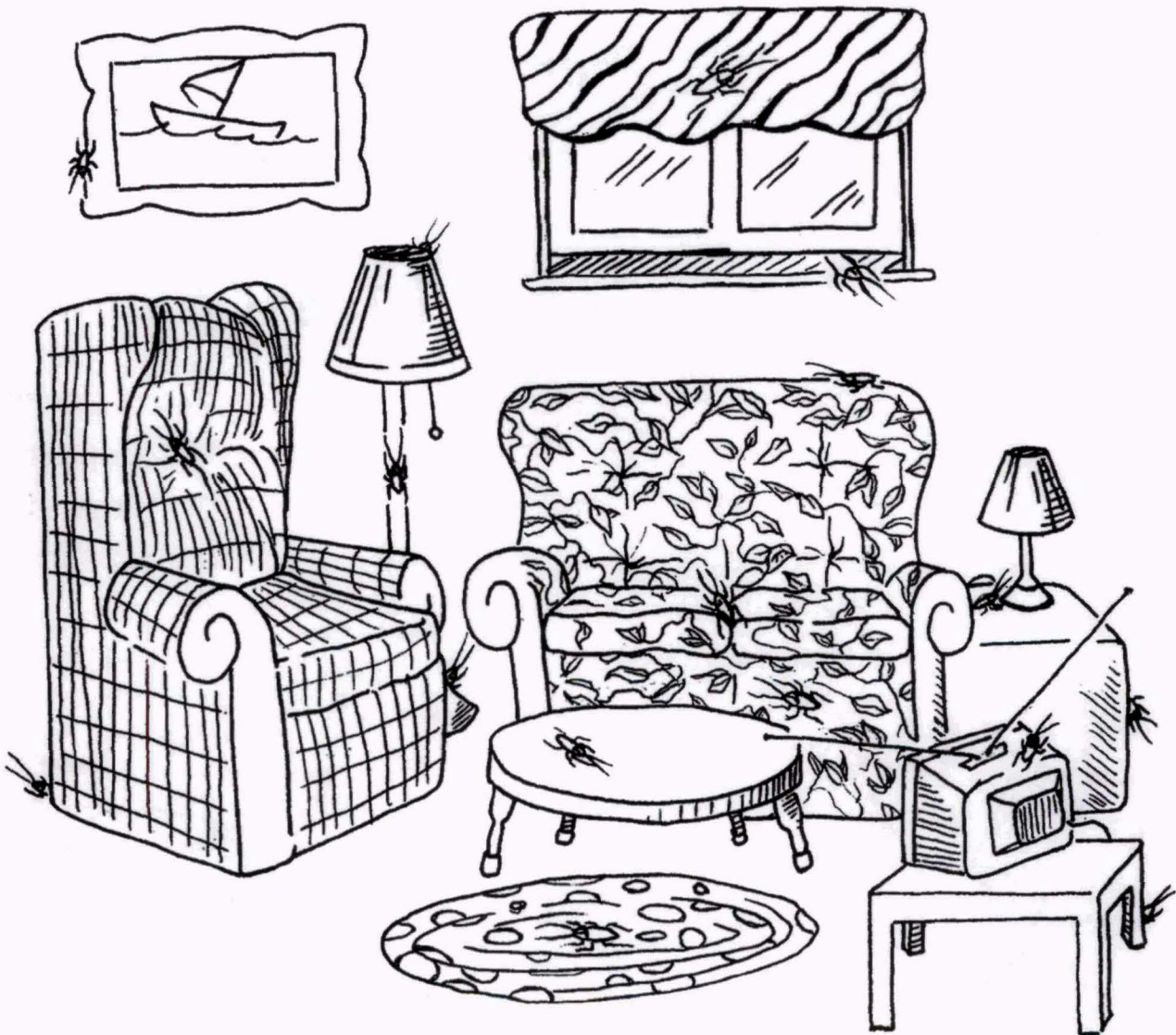




# Where Are the Roaches?

Make this room a roach-free zone. **Circle** all of the roaches you can find. Good luck!

*Hint: There are 17 roaches.*



# What Have You Learned?

You can do **three** things to prevent roaches in your home.  
They are...



**S** \_\_\_\_\_ Them Out

**D** \_\_\_\_ Them Out

**K** \_\_\_\_ Them Out

## ...One More Thing!

Pesticides are chemicals used to prevent or kill pests like roaches or weeds. Because these chemicals can be harmful, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is in charge of controlling how these chemicals are used in this country so that plants, animals, and people are protected. If your parents or a pest control operator uses pesticides in your home, BE CAREFUL!!!

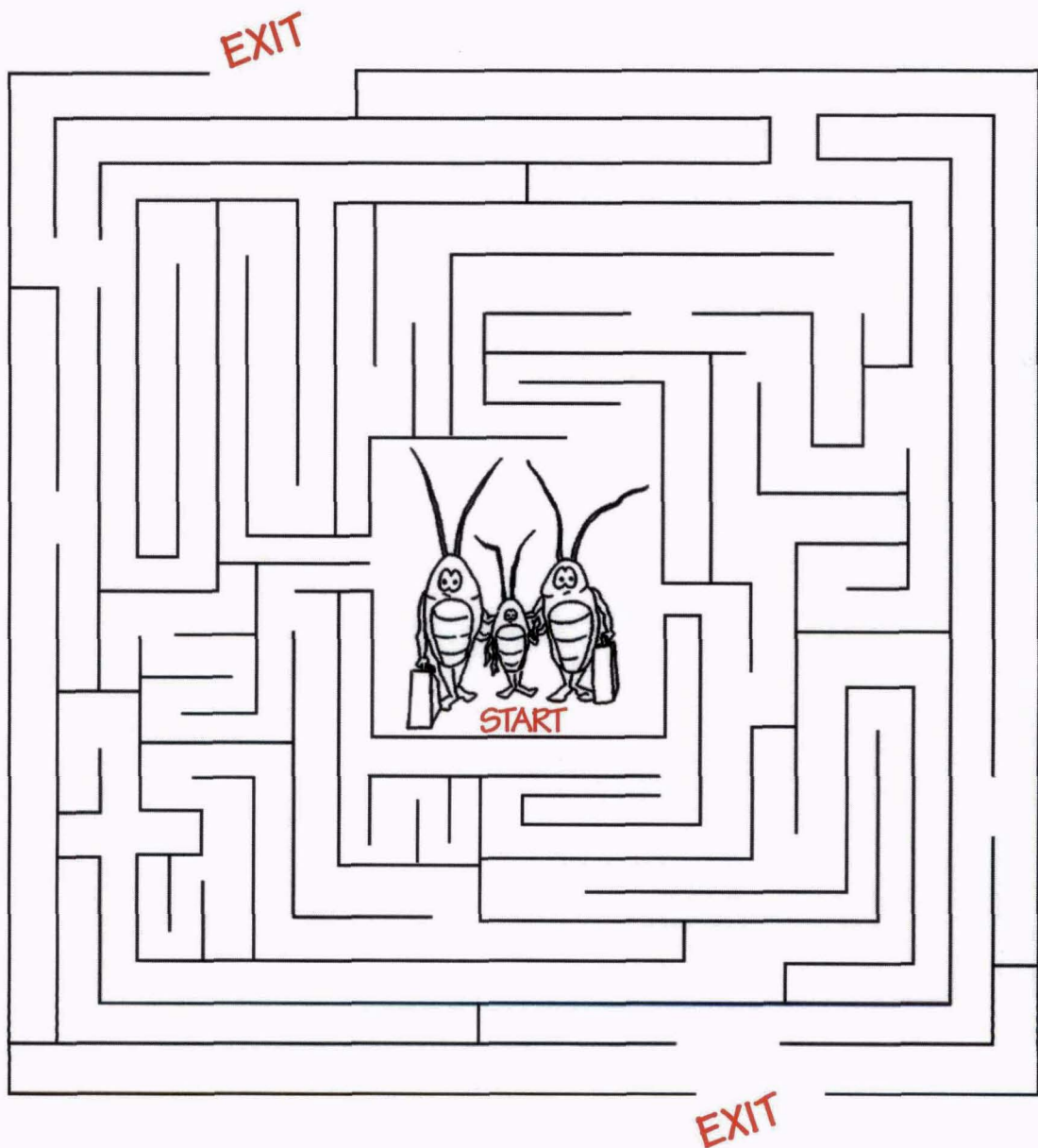
**DON'T TOUCH PESTICIDES OR  
PESTICIDE CONTAINERS.**



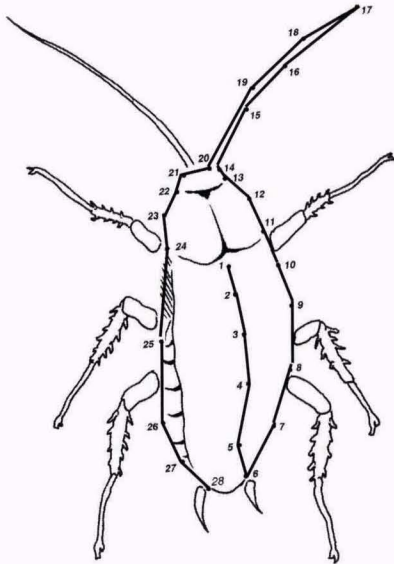


# Send Them Packing!

Now that you know how to prevent roaches, these roaches want to get away fast! Help them by finding a path through the maze.



# Answers



1. A roach can run 3 miles per hour.
2. There are about 4,000 kinds of roaches.
3. Roaches have 6 legs.
4. Roaches can hold their breath for 40 minutes.
5. Roaches have been around for 300 million years.

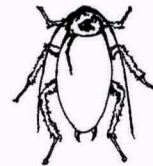
2



16 German

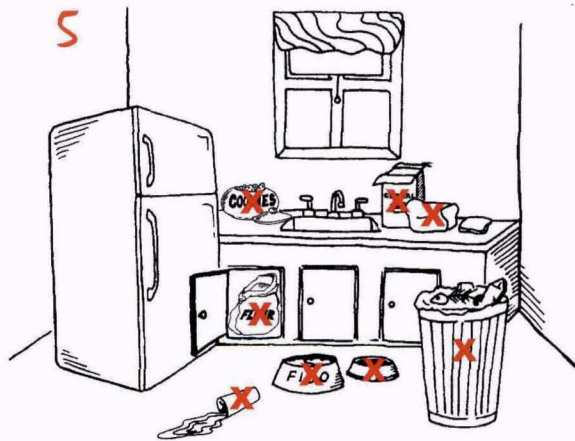


14 Oriental

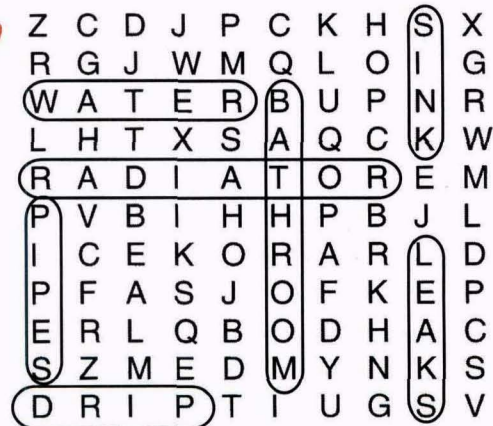


12 American

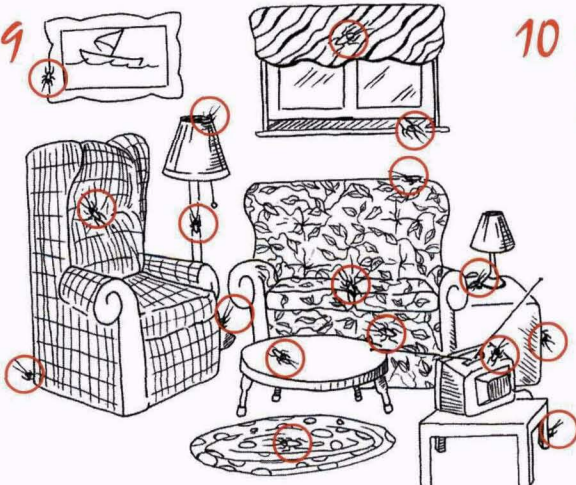
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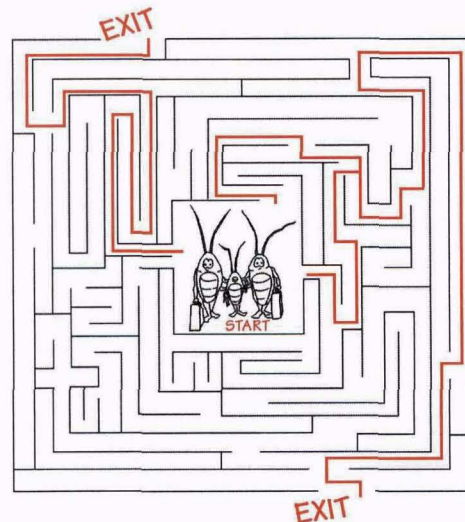


9



10 STARVE  
DRY  
KEEP

11





If you or your parents want to know more about pesticides, call the National Pesticides Information Center at 1-800-858-PEST. Or find them on the web at **<http://www.ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/>**



United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Pesticide Programs (7506C)  
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