Insect Charades: The Big Eight

	Order	Example Insects	Common Characteristics	Illustration
1	The Membrane Wings	Ants, Bees, Wasps	 2 pairs of clear, membranous wings Compound eyes Sponge-like, sucking or 	
	(Hymenoptera)		biting mouthpartsLong legsStingers	
2	The Two Wings (Diptera)	Flies, Mosquitoes, Gnats	 1 pair of regular wings & 1 pair of very small wings Compound eyes Sponge-like or sucking mouthparts 	
3	The Scaly Wings (Lepidoptera)	Moths, Butterflies	 2 pairs of scaly wings Antennae feathery, needle- or pin-like Compound eyes Sucking mouthparts 	
4	The Sheath Wings (Coleoptera)	Beetles	 1 pair of hard wings Wings cover top of body & meet in straight line down center of back Biting mouthparts 	
	The Straight Wings (Orthoptera)	Crickets, Grasshoppers, Locusts	 1 pair leathery wings in front (fold over body when not in use) 1 pair fan-like wings in back Long legs/ high hopper Make rhythmic sounds 	
6	The Toothed Wings "Born with Teeth" (Odonata)	Dragonflies, Damselflies	 Chewing mouthparts 2 pairs of wings Most have thin legs & short antennae Large compound eyes nearly cover small heads Biting mouthparts 	
7	The Same Wings (Homoptera)	Aphids, Cicadas, Treehoppers, Leafhoppers	Both (2) pairs of wings are same from base to tip Wings held in tent-like position over body when resting Piercing or sucking mouthparts	
8	The Half Wings	True Bugs, Back swimmers, Water Striders	2 pairs of wings: thick and leathery near the body & thin at tip Wings fold on back	
	(Hemiptera)		forming a triangle behind the head Snout on head is used for piercing and sucking	