

Insects

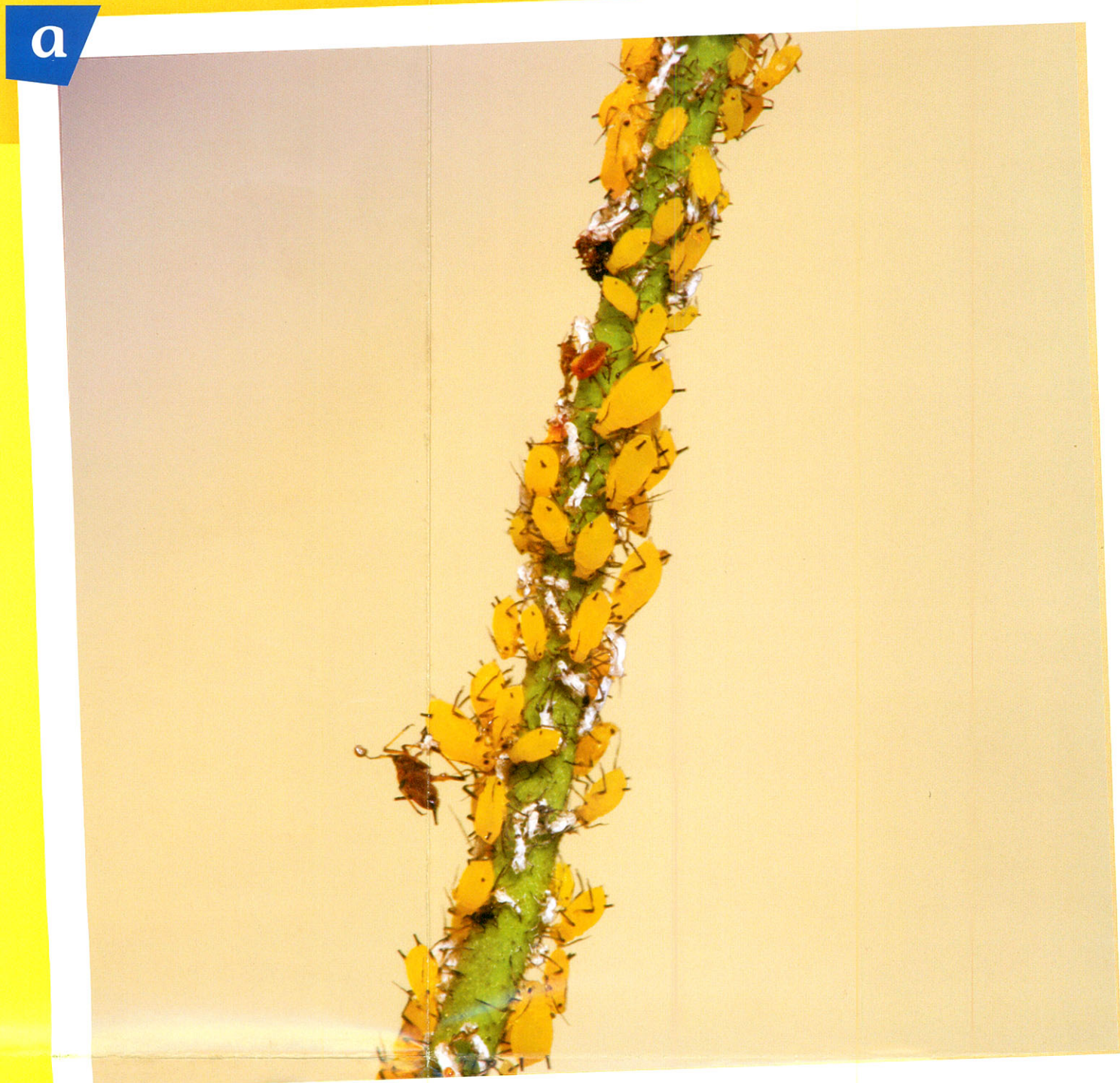
Insects are the most successful animals in the world. Three quarters of the planet's living things are insects.

Size

Insects are small creatures. They can live in places where animals can't attack them. Many insects can live close together because they don't need a lot of food. These aphids are getting food from this plant.

Did you know?

The smallest insect in the world is probably the fairy fly. It is a kind of wasp and is only 0.5mm long. You need a microscope to see it.



Disguise

Some insects can disguise themselves so that attackers can't see them when they are feeding.

Did you know?

Some insects disguise themselves as sticks or leaves. It's hard to see the stick insect on this plant!

Can you find ...?

insects with these colours:

- black
- orange
- yellow
- brown

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Wings

Many insects have wings. They can escape from attackers and they can move quickly and easily. They can fly to a new place to live, feed and find a partner.

Did you know?

Dragonflies move their wings over 60 times a second when they fly.

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Food

Insects eat different food at different stages of their life. The young insects don't fight for food with the older insects. Caterpillars eat leaves and butterflies get food from flowers.

Did you know?

The Monarch butterfly can fly as far as 3000 kilometres to find warm weather and food.

Living together

Wasps, ants and bees all build nests for the large number of eggs.

Did you know?

Ants live together and share the jobs. Some do the cleaning. Others find food. Another group looks after the young ants.

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Defence

Some insects can bite and sting to defend themselves. Another way is to look like something scary or frightening. This praying mantis has a pattern on its wings. A bird sees this pattern and thinks it looks like the eye of a bigger animal and it doesn't try to eat the insect.

Did you know?

The bombardier beetle shoots out very hot chemicals to defend itself. You can actually hear the explosion and the temperature of this sting is 100 degrees Celsius.

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