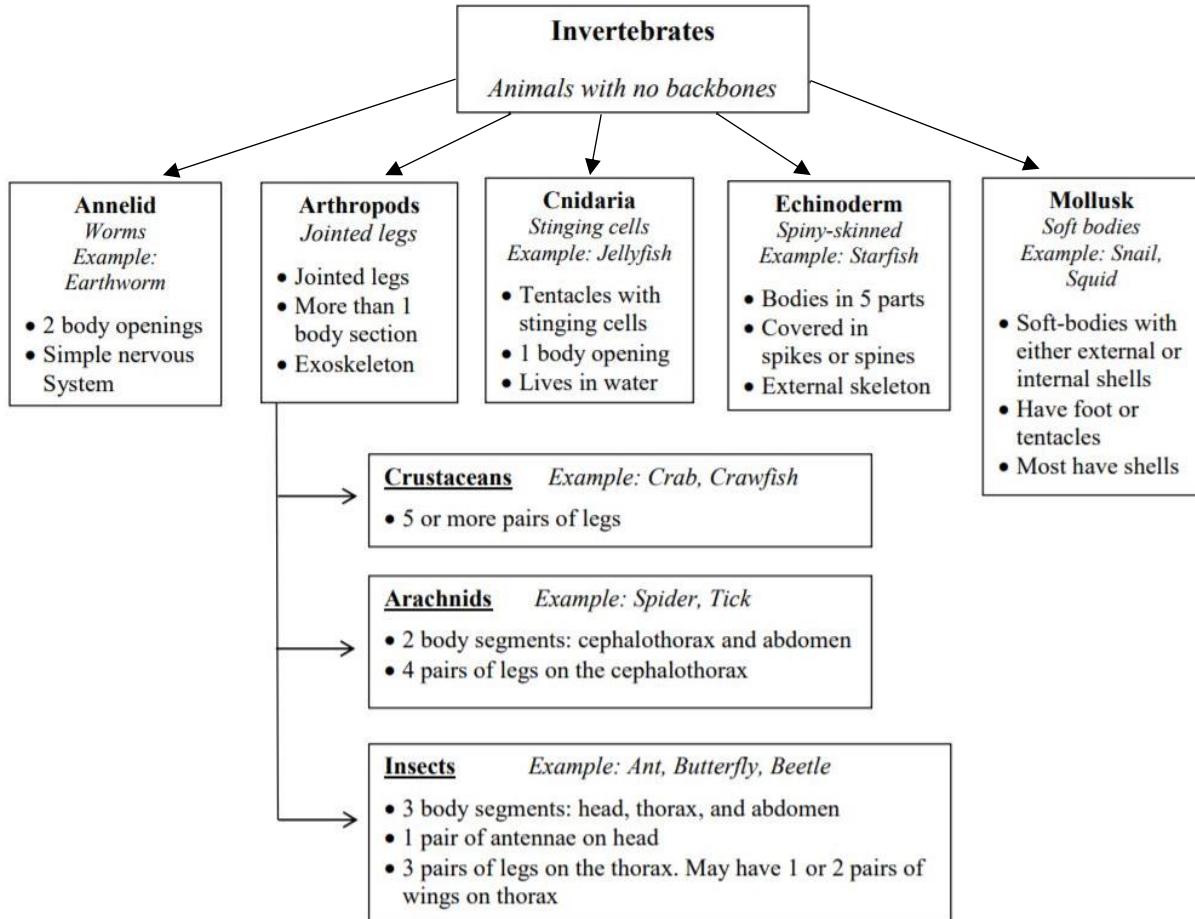


Invertebrates all around us

The animals in our touch tanks are all invertebrates, meaning they do not have backbones. They may seem strange, but invertebrates make up the majority of animals on Earth – at least 95%! Knowing this, you can not only find invertebrates in oceans, but on land and in the air.

We can find invertebrates all around us, in parks, our backyards, and even in our homes. Some of them have relatives that are found in the ocean, while others are limited to one type of environment. Looking at the chart below, circle the groups you think you can find in your local environment.



Hopefully, you chose all the groups except the Cnidaria and Echinoderms. These groups are restricted to ocean environments, but the rest all have relatives that live on land. The most surprising of these is a common crustacean that you can likely find in your backyard.