

**No
Backbone!**

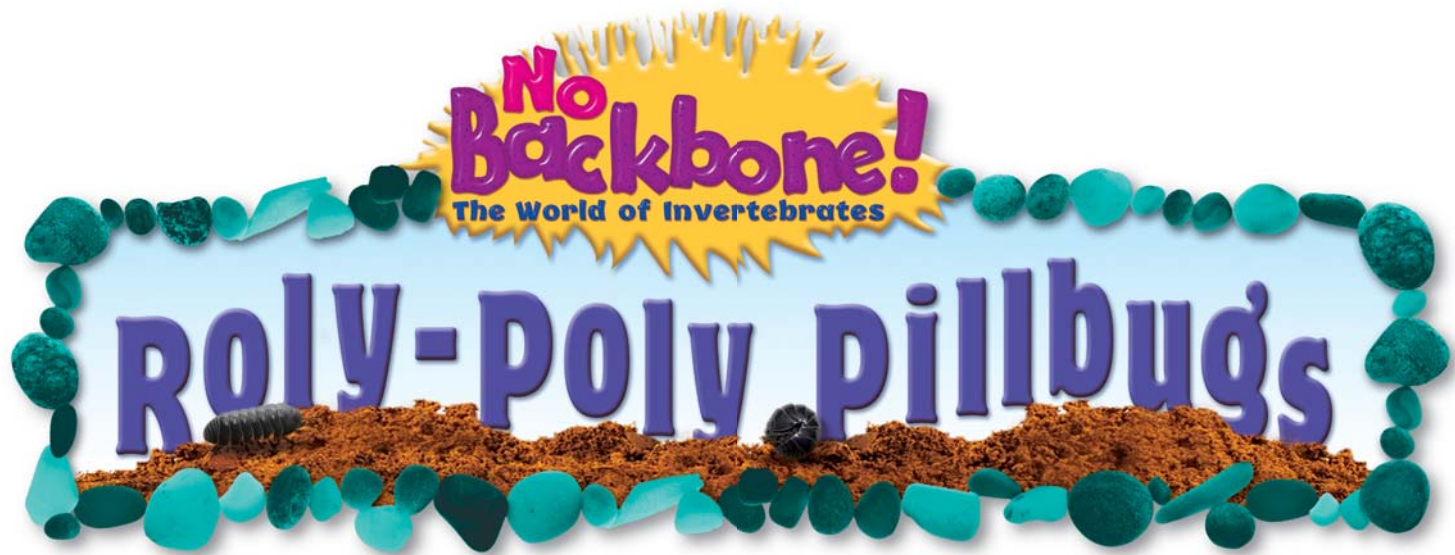
The World of Invertebrates

Roly-Poly pillbugs



by Molly Smith

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by Molly Smith

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A decorative border made of small, smooth, multi-colored stones (tan, grey, white, and brown) arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

Roly-Polies

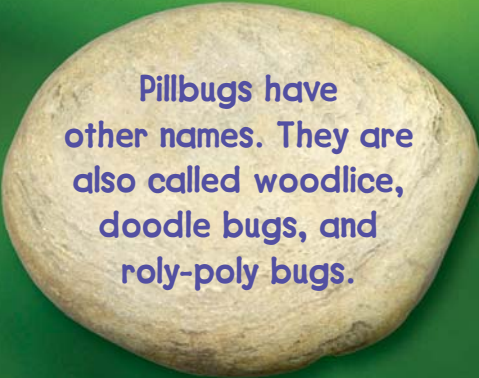
Pillbugs are small brownish-gray creatures that are shaped like ovals.

Sometimes they roll up into a ball to protect themselves.

When they do, they look like little round pills.

In fact, that's how they got their name.





Pillbugs have other names. They are also called woodlice, doodle bugs, and roly-poly bugs.



**rolled-up
pillbugs**

On Land and in the Sea

Many people think that pillbugs are **insects**—just like ants, bees, and beetles.

These little creepy-crawlers are not insects, however.

Instead, they belong to a large group of animals that includes shrimp, lobsters, and crabs.

Most of the animals in this group live underwater.

Pillbugs, however, live on land.

pillbug



shrimp



crab



**giant deep-sea
isopod**

The largest animal
that is closely related to the
pillbug is the giant deep-sea
isopod (EYE-suh-pod). It
can be almost 20 inches
(51 cm) long!



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Learn More Online

To learn more about pillbugs, visit

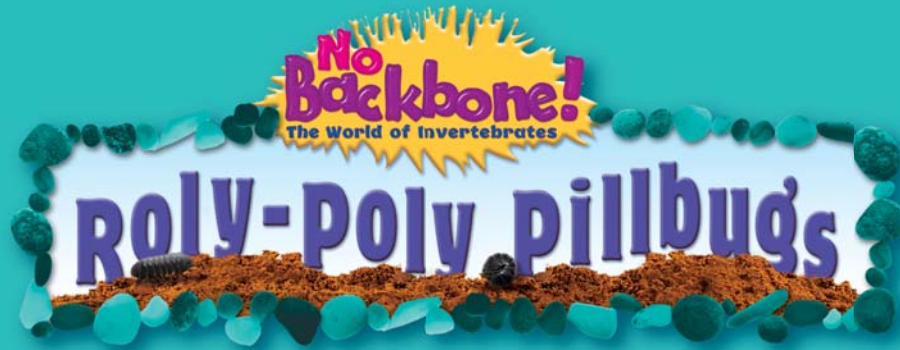
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About the Author

Molly Smith has written many nonfiction books and textbooks for children. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Norwalk, Connecticut, where they like to hunt for pillbugs by their stone wall.



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How did the pillbug get its name? When a pillbug wants to stay safe from enemies, it rolls itself up into a ball that looks like a little round pill. Look inside to discover more fascinating facts about these roly-poly creatures.

Bloodsucking Leeches

Creeping Land Snails

Leggy Centipedes

Roly-Poly Pillbugs

Stinging Scorpions

Wiggly Earthworms

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