

A large, dark scorpion is the central focus, positioned in the foreground on a sandy, pebbly desert floor. Its pincers are spread wide, and its long, segmented tail curves upwards and to the right. In the background, a dead white animal, possibly a rabbit or small dog, lies on the sand. The horizon shows rolling yellow hills under a blue sky with light clouds. A decorative banner with a jagged yellow top and a blue bottom with green circular patterns frames the title text.

**No
Backbone!**

The World of Invertebrates

stinging scorpions

by Natalie Lunis

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by Natalie Lunis

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The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a large number of scorpions, likely in a natural habitat. The scorpions are dark, segmented, and their pincers are visible. A decorative border made of small, smooth, light-colored pebbles runs along the edges of the page, framing the central text area.

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Deadly Stingers

Scorpions are small animals with big front claws.

Like spiders, they have eight legs and belong to a group of animals called **arachnids**.

A scorpion, however, has something that no spider has—a tail with a deadly stinger.





Scorpions can
be from half an inch
(1.3 cm) to 8 inches
(20 cm) long.

A Scorpion's Body

Like all arachnids, scorpions have two main body parts—a front part and a back part.


A scorpion's eight legs are attached to the front part, along with a pair of big, powerful claws.

A scorpion uses its claws to grab, tear, and crush other animals.

At the back part of the scorpion's body is its tail.

The tail has a sharp, curved stinger at the end, which can pump poison into the bodies of other animals.





A scorpion also has a hard covering called an exoskeleton on the outside of its body. The exoskeleton protects the scorpion's soft inner body parts and keeps them from drying out.

stinger

tail

claws

legs

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Read More

McFee, Shane.
Scorpions. New York: Rosen (2008).

Murray, Peter. *Scorpions.* Mankato, MN: The Child's World (2008).

Richardson, Adele D.
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Learn More Online

To learn more about scorpions, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/NoBackbone-CreepyCrawlers

About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written many science and nature books for children.
She lives in the Hudson River Valley, just north of New York City.



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If you see a scorpion crawling close to you, watch out! This spooky-looking animal has a poisonous stinger at the end of its tail that can be very painful—and sometimes even deadly! Look inside to discover more fascinating facts about these stinging creatures.

Bloodsucking Leeches

Creeping Land Snails

Leggy Centipedes

Roly-Poly Pillbugs

Stinging Scorpions

Wiggly Earthworms

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