

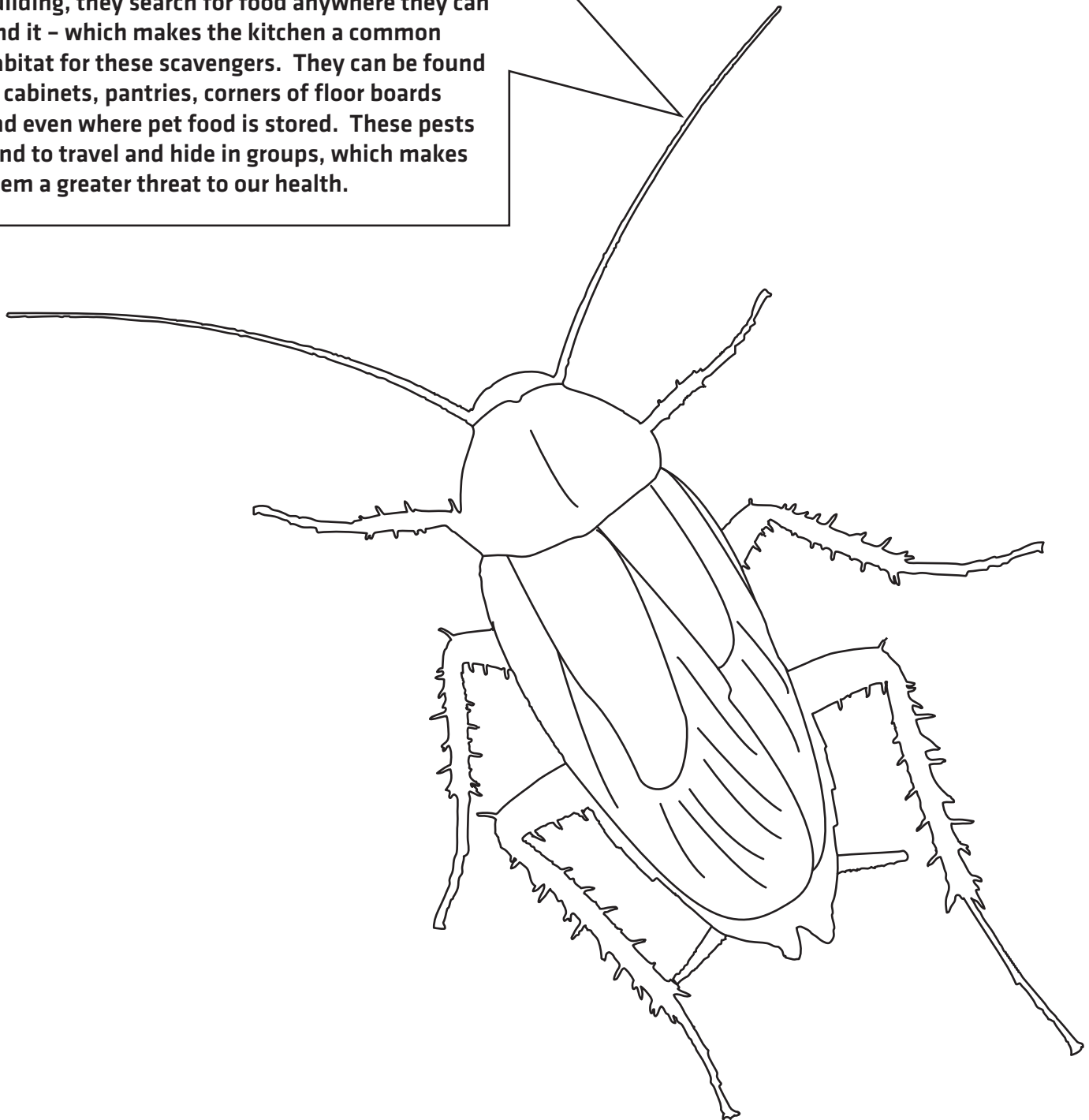
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Cockroaches

Cockroaches can live in many different environments, but love the cozy warmth of buildings and homes. Once they enter a building, they search for food anywhere they can find it – which makes the kitchen a common habitat for these scavengers. They can be found in cabinets, pantries, corners of floor boards and even where pet food is stored. These pests tend to travel and hide in groups, which makes them a greater threat to our health.



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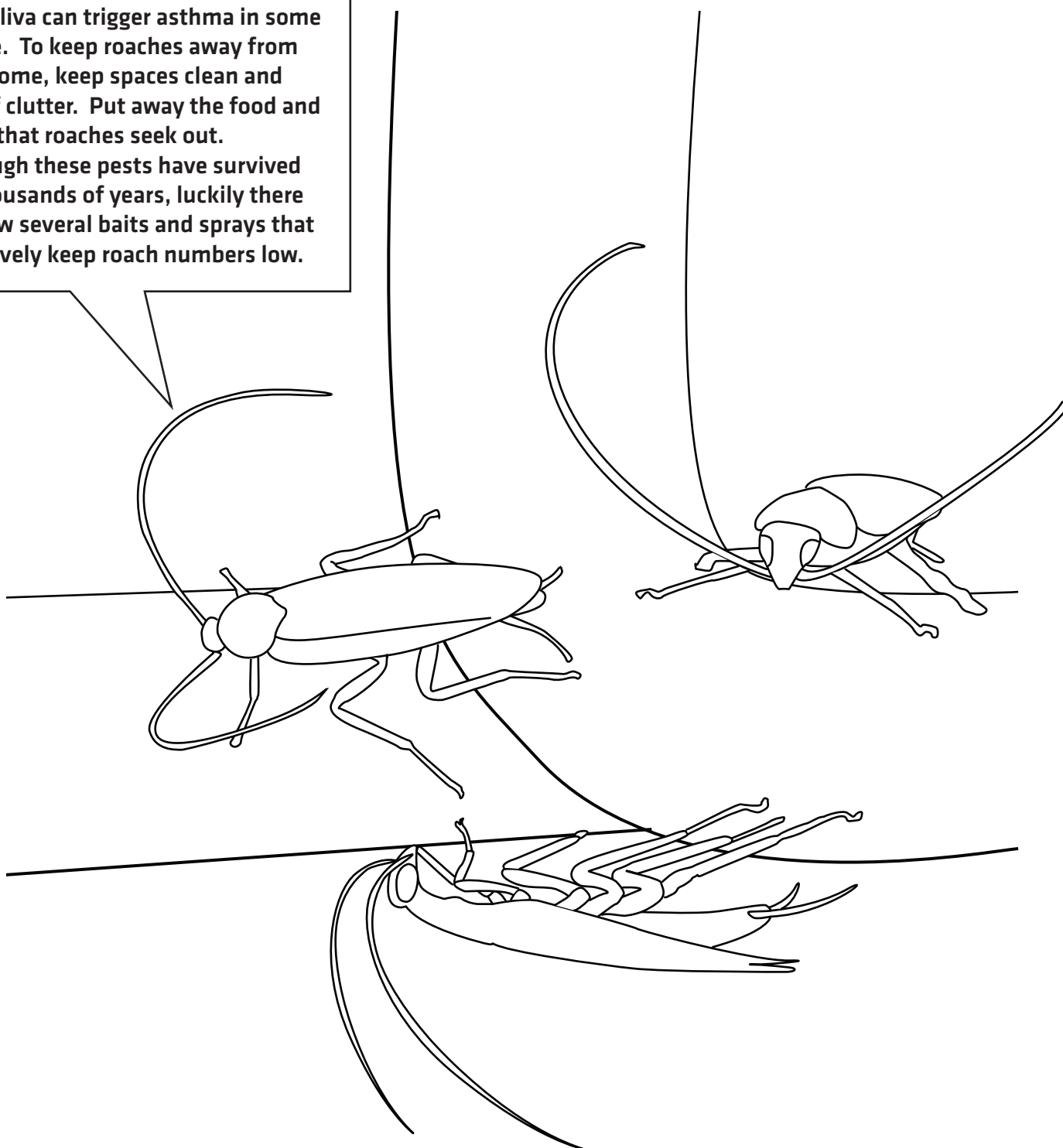


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Cockroaches

Droppings and body parts can cause food poisoning and allergic reactions, and the allergens in their droppings and saliva can trigger asthma in some people. To keep roaches away from your home, keep spaces clean and free of clutter. Put away the food and water that roaches seek out.

Although these pests have survived for thousands of years, luckily there are now several baits and sprays that effectively keep roach numbers low.



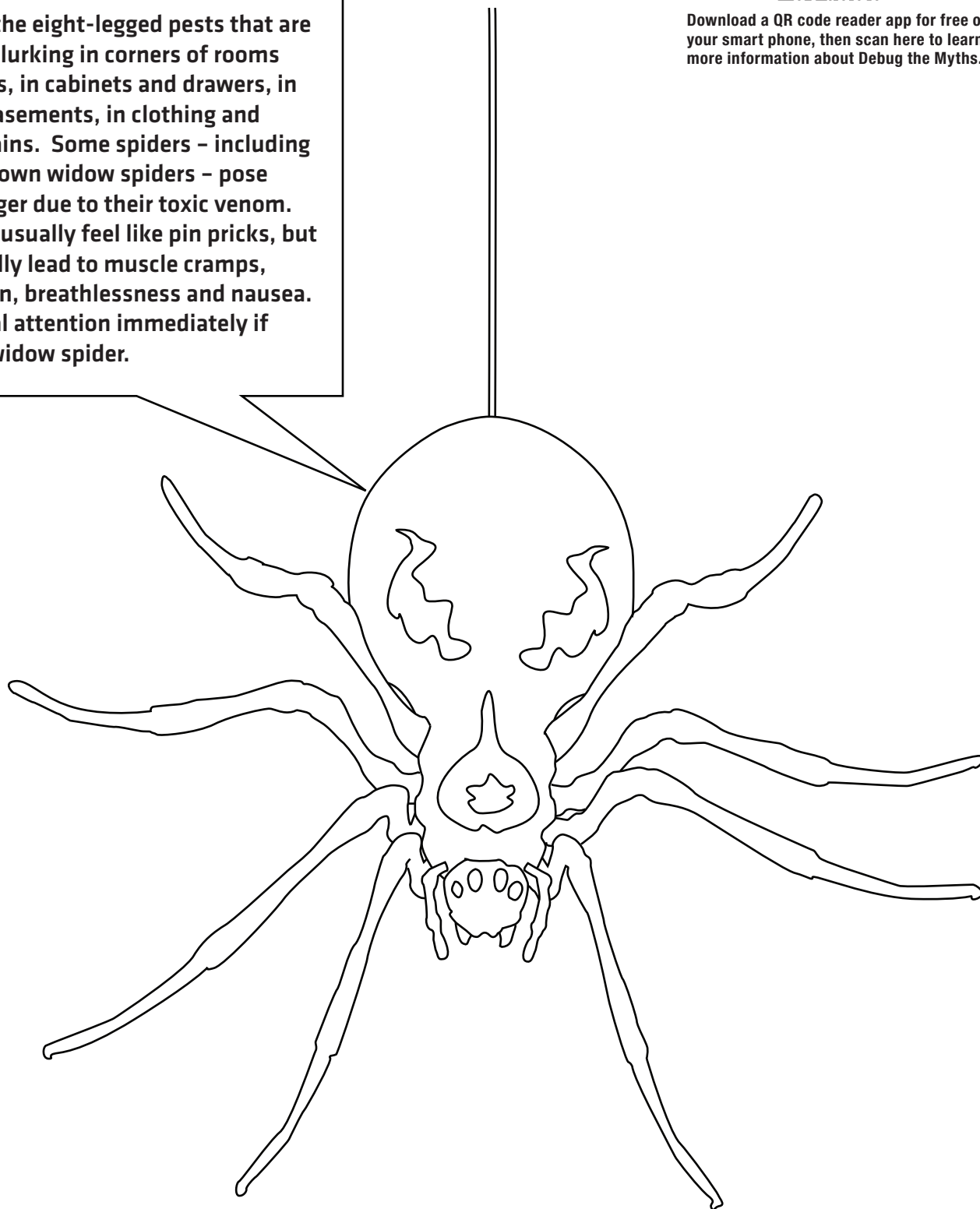
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Spiders

Spiders are the eight-legged pests that are often found lurking in corners of rooms and hallways, in cabinets and drawers, in attics and basements, in clothing and behind curtains. Some spiders – including black and brown widow spiders – pose specific danger due to their toxic venom. Spider bites usually feel like pin pricks, but can eventually lead to muscle cramps, stomach pain, breathlessness and nausea. Seek medical attention immediately if bitten by a widow spider.



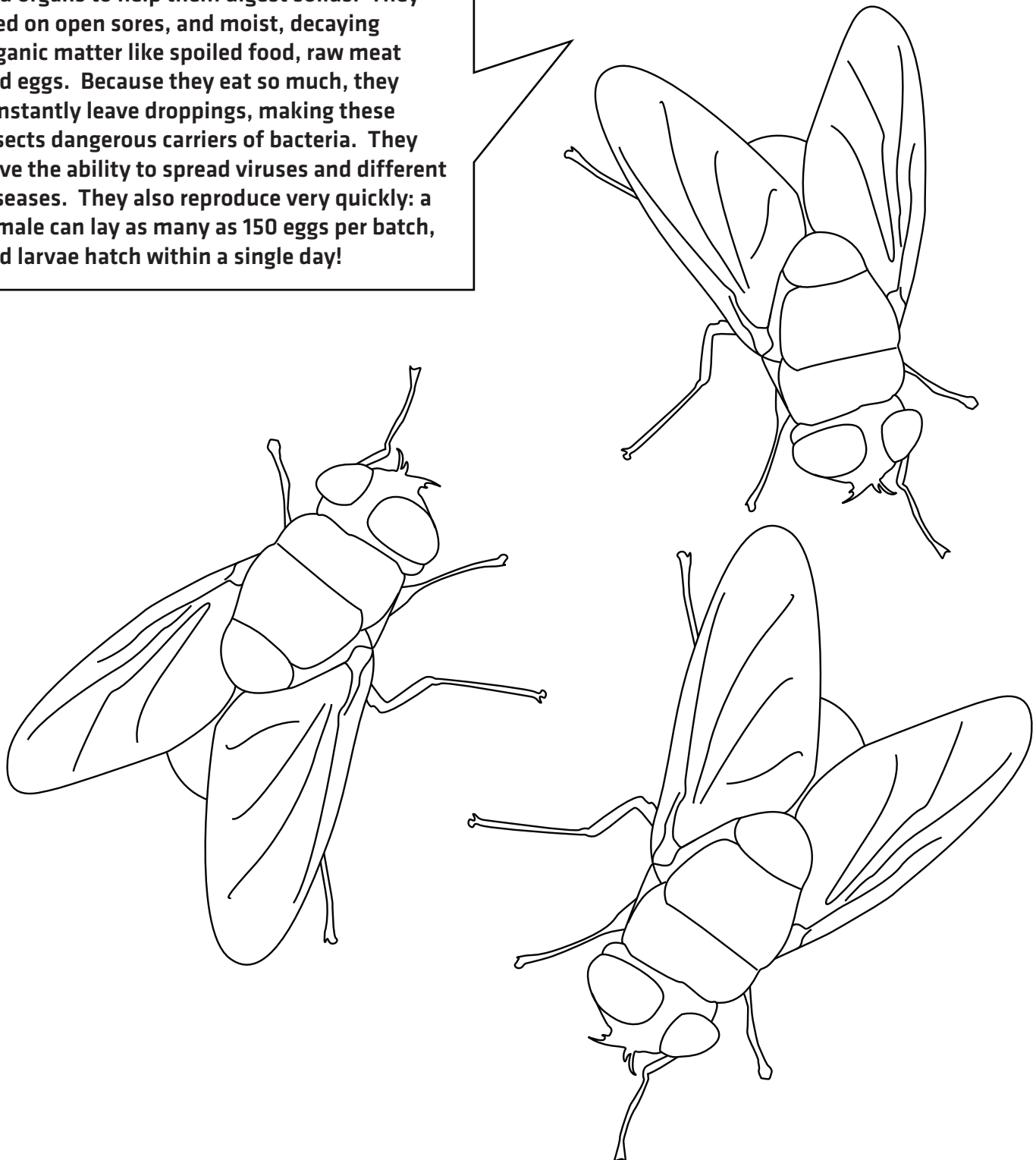
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Flies

These flying pests can only consume liquid foods at each meal because they lack teeth and organs to help them digest solids. They feed on open sores, and moist, decaying organic matter like spoiled food, raw meat and eggs. Because they eat so much, they constantly leave droppings, making these insects dangerous carriers of bacteria. They have the ability to spread viruses and different diseases. They also reproduce very quickly: a female can lay as many as 150 eggs per batch, and larvae hatch within a single day!



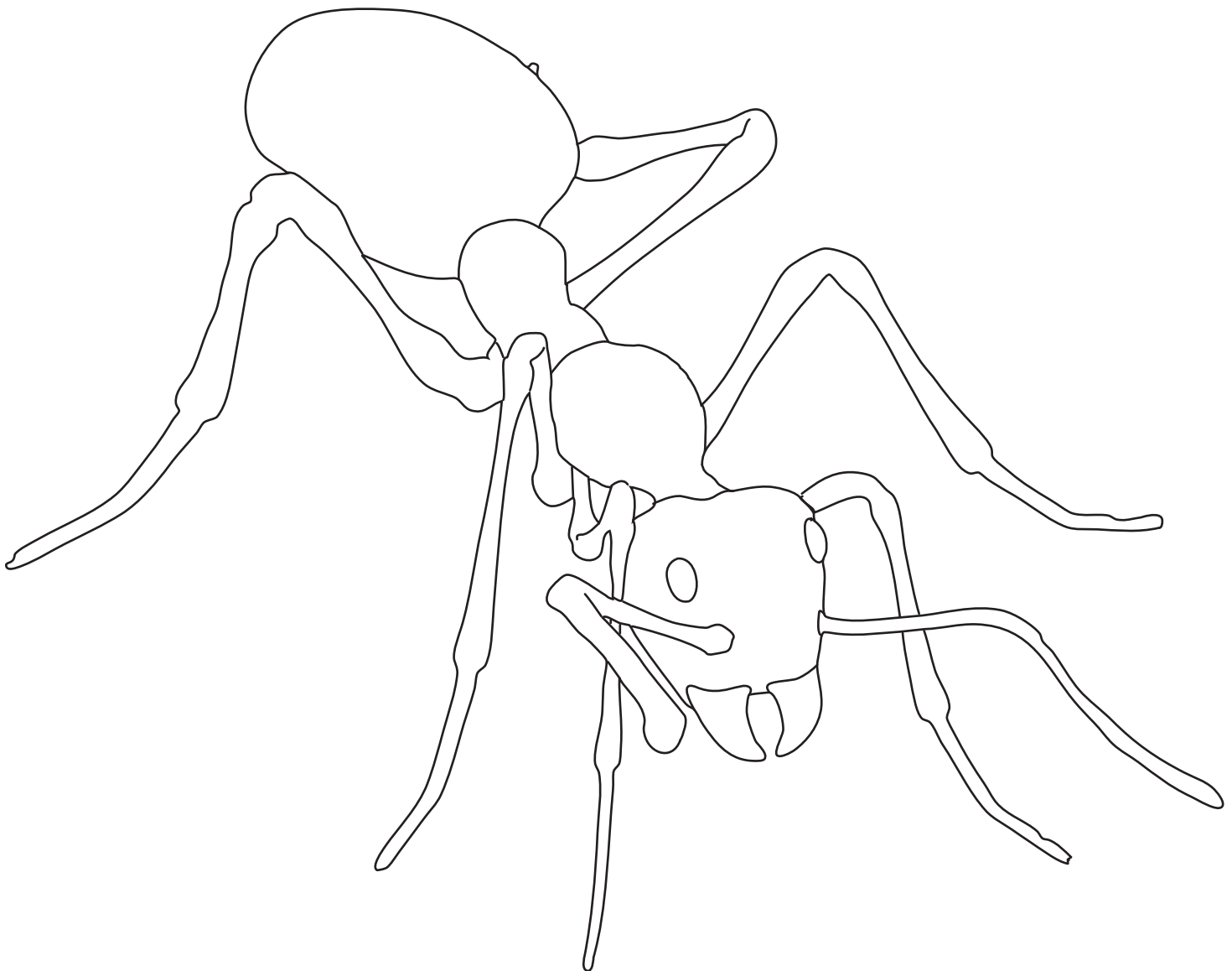
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Ants

Ants can survive in most ecosystems, including the one in your home. Fire ants are known for their aggressive behavior, attacking and swarming over anything that disturbs their nests - including people. Fire ant bites result in painful red welts on the skin, which in some cases require medical attention. Carpenter ants damage homes by digging tunnels through wood.



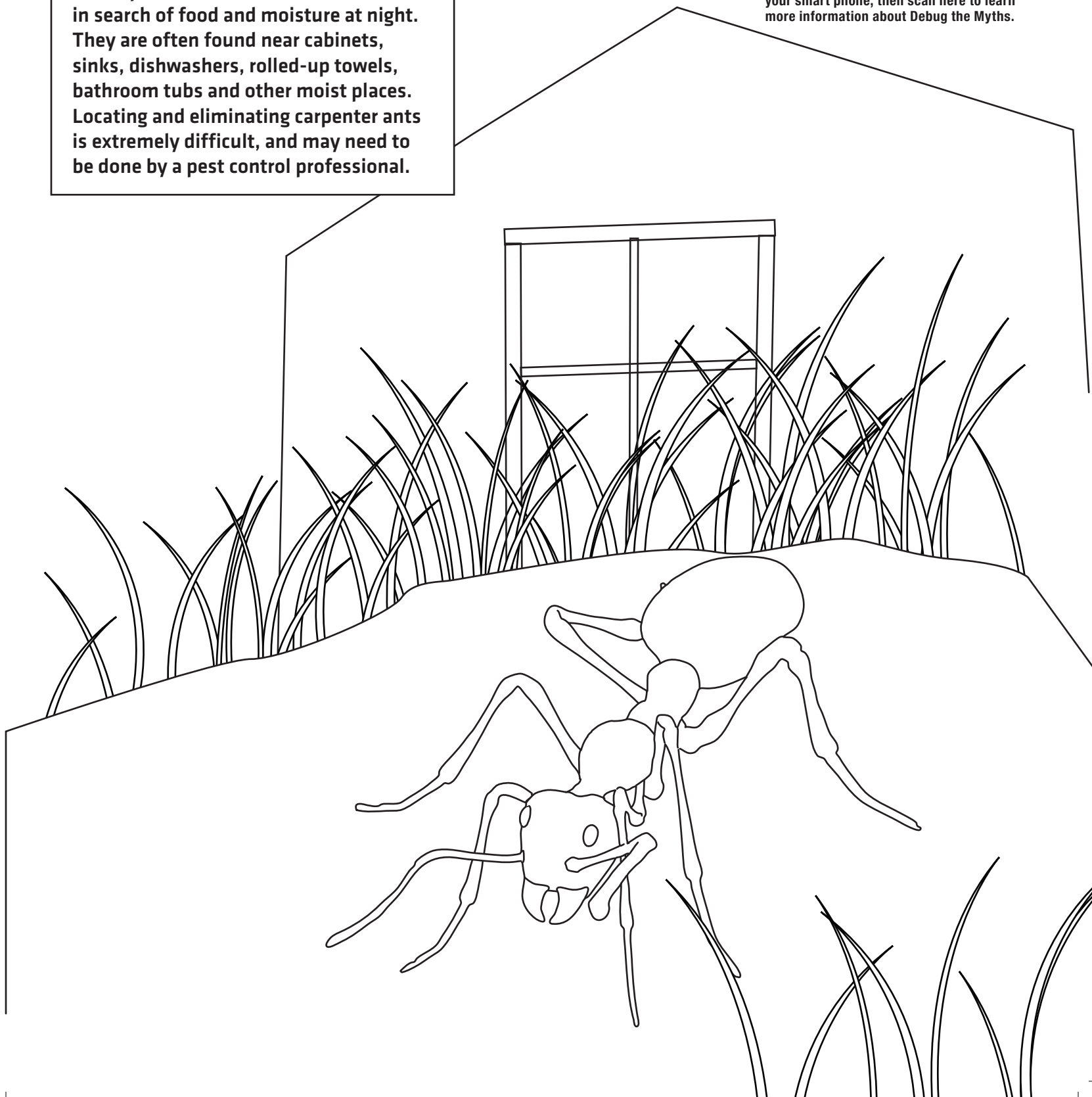
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Ants

These pests come indoors for the winter, in search of food and moisture at night. They are often found near cabinets, sinks, dishwashers, rolled-up towels, bathroom tubs and other moist places. Locating and eliminating carpenter ants is extremely difficult, and may need to be done by a pest control professional.



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Poison Ivy

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac are normally found in wooded areas, especially along the edges. It also grows in between rocks in exposed rocky areas and in open fields. More than half of the American population are allergic to these plants, making them the most common allergy in America. The oil on the leaves and stems can stay on skin and clothes, and can easily be passed along to others. A poison ivy rash is extremely itchy, and may become painful. The rash can last anywhere from one to three weeks. Several easy-to-use herbicides keep these plants under control, and are available at most local hardware stores.

