



Wild and wonderful words

Distinctions

Definitions

Prickles, spines, thorns

Antlers, horns,
pronghorns, ossicones

Wings, halteres

Scutes, scales

Molts, instars

Chrysalis, cocoon

Prickles, spines and thorns

Prickles—dermal tissue

Spines—leaf tissue

Thorns—stem tissue



Horns and antlers and pronghorns

Horns have a full core bone covered with keratin (like fingernails), are on males and females, and are never shed.

Antlers are made of bone and covered with skin-like velvet, growing out of a pedicle, only on males (except for reindeer) and annually shed.

Pronghorns shed and regrow the horn sheath annually.

Giraffes have ossicones of cartilage covered with fur that harden into bone.





Wings and halteres

Wings are paired feathered or membranous appendages for flight. Halteres are tiny modified hind wings to help control flight. The wings of flies move in-phase to each other, while halteres move at a constant phase offset from the wings.



Scutes and scales

Scales are formed from the epidermis while scutes come from the lower vascular layer of the skin.



Molts and instars

Molting is the process of shedding the old exoskeleton so the creature can grow larger. Instars are the forms between two molts.



Chrysalis and cocoons

A chrysalis is the hard, stiff body of the butterfly pupa, while a cocoon is the external structure formed by the larvae to protect itself during the pupal phase.



Singing vocabulary
to *Head, shoulders,*
knees and toes

Spines, thorns and prickles too,
prickles too. (pointy finger)

Antlers and horns distinct for
you, just for you, (hands on
head)

Scutes and scales, halteres and
wings, (hands on shoulders)

Lots of words for different
things, different things!

Differences and distinctions

- Design a nature journal for collecting nature words!
- Look around the park and find examples of spines, thorns and prickles.
- Make a sharp and pointy snack with a rice cake covered with peanut butter and jumbo chocolate chips pressed in point up!



Nature
journals for
kids

