

COCKROACHES AND TERMITES

BLATTODEA



Did you know? If you've ever seen a cockroach inside your house, it is not native to the United States of America—every pest cockroach species in the USA comes from somewhere else! For example, despite their common name, American cockroaches are native to parts of Africa.

Did you know? Termites used to be in their own Order, Isoptera! Now they're in the same Order as cockroaches, because new techniques like DNA sequencing have shown that the two are very closely related.

Did you know? There is a Genus of cockroaches, *Cryptocercus*, that only lives in forests that have been there for at least 60 million years!

Look and see!



Cursorial legs are strong and used for running!



Roaches can be winged or wingless; *Cryptocercus* roaches live in dead wood and don't go very far, so they don't need wings!



Credits:

Photos: ncb1221 (inaturalist.org/people/ncb1221), cursorial legs; Sherrie Quillen (inaturalist.org/people/sherriequillen), *Cryptocercus*; Steven Kurniawidjaja (inaturalist.org/neontetraploid), harlequin roach

Facts: The American Cockroach, William J. Bell and K. G. Adiyodi (1982); Description of *Cryptocercus clevelandi*..., Nalepe et al (1997) (<https://doi.org/10.1093/aesa/90.4.416>)

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