



**NATURE**<sup>®</sup>

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Isopod Research Organizer ANSWER KEY**

Observe the isopods in the classroom. Use your observations and the information from the web sites below to complete this research organizer.

- <http://lhsfoss.org/fossweb/teachers/materials/plantanimal/isopods.html>
- <http://insected.arizona.edu/isoinfo.htm>

1. Sketch one of the classroom isopods:

2. How many legs do isopods have?

*14, in 7 pairs*

3. What are the other main anatomical features of isopods?

*Head – with simple eyes and antennae; thorax - segmented into 7 segments; abdomen – with uropods at the base end.*

4. What is the meaning of the term “isopod”?

*Greek for “similar foot”, referring to 7 pairs of legs that all have a similar purpose, rather than being specialized for grasping, etc.*

5. What are three different common names for isopods?

*Pillbugs, sowbugs, cressbugs, woodlice, roly-polies*

6. Name three other animals related to isopods:

*Shrimp, Crabs, Crayfish (students may name other known crustaceans)*

7. Isopods are mainly (circle one):

Producers

Consumers

**Decomposers**

8. How do pillbugs respire?

*Gills - they use gill-like structures at the bases of their legs*

9. How do young (immature) isopods differ in appearance from adult isopods?

*They are smaller, otherwise they look identical to adult isopods.*

10. Where could you expect to find isopods in the wild?

*In dark, humid places with decomposing plant matter – so in leaf litter, under flower pots, under logs, etc.*