



100 MOST DISGUSTING THINGS ON THE PLANET

PREPARE FOR THE WORST!



**ANNA
CLAYBOURNE**

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Project editor: Amy Head
Layout: The Urban Ant
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A red earthworm is positioned in the upper left corner, and a fly is in the upper right corner. Both are on a green, bubbly, textured surface.

Anna Claybourne


A black banner with yellow diagonal stripes on the left and right sides, serving as a background for the title text.

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CONTENTS

Introduction	6	Fieldfare	34
		Vampire bat	35
		Skunk	36
Disgusting Nature		Hippopotamus	37
Cockroach	10	Opossum	38
Blowfly	11	Jackal	39
Housefly	12	Rafflesia	40
Botfly	13	Titan arum	41
Tarantula	14	Venus flytrap	42
Tarantula hawk wasp	15	Pitcher plant	43
Velvet worm	16	Squirting cucumber	44
Poo-covered beetle	17	Stinking toe tree	45
Millipede	18	Pond slime	46
Assassin bug	19	Slime mould	47
Bombardier beetle	20	Disgusting red fungus	48
Dung beetle	21	Stinkhorn	49
Giant isopod	22	Head louse	50
Slugs and snails	23	Eyelash mite	51
Giant jellyfish	24	Tick	52
Starfish	25	Flea	53
Komodo dragon	26	Leech	54
Horned lizard	27	Mosquito	55
Cane toad	28	Bedbug	56
Surinam toad	29	Dust mite	57
Hagfish	30	Tapeworm	58
Blobfish	31	Roundworm	59
Vulture	32	Guinea worm	60
Fulmar	33	Tongue-eating louse	61



Disgusting Humans

Germs in cheese	64	Cobwebs	87
Maggot cheese	65	Dust	88
Guga	66	Black mould	89
Hákarl	67	Spit	90
Chinese caterpillar fungus	68	Sweaty feet	91
Eyeballs	69	Burps	92
Durian	70	Flatulence	93
Civet coffee	71	Snot	94
Animal feet	72	Phlegm	95
Bird's nest soup	73	Earwax	96
Chocolate-covered ants	74	Eye gunk	97
Mothburger	75	Scabs	98
Witchetty grubs	76	Pus	99
Fried grasshoppers	77	Sneezing	100
Mopane worms	78	Vomit	101
Roasted spiders	79	Wee	102
Tripe	80	Poo	103
Sheep's head	81	Toilet	104
Rotten eggs	82	Sewer	105
1,000-year-old eggs	83	Tooth plaque	106
Bee larvae	84	Tooth decay	107
Moose nose	85	Spider bite	108
Ant stitches	86	Snakebite	109
		Maggot therapy	110
		Leech healing	111
		Acknowledgments	112

INTRODUCTION

“Urggggh! That’s DISGUSTING!” You might hear someone saying that if they see you picking your nose or find stinky, rotten food in your fridge. But what exactly does it mean to be “disgusting”? The word *disgusting* literally means something that tastes bad or makes you feel sick. There are lots of things that can do this, as you’ll see in this book. Foods you find revolting, yucky body bits, nasty smells, and creepy-crawlies can all make you screw up your nose or back away in horror.

DISGUSTING TO YOU, DELIGHTFUL TO ME

A lot of “disgusting” things are only disgusting to some people and not to others. For example, someone who finds the idea of blue cheese completely revolting might be happy to munch on a fried grasshopper. Someone else might think eating grasshoppers is vile but love eating prawns, which would be extra-odd because grasshoppers and prawns actually belong to similar animal families – both have feelers, bulging eyes, and lots of wriggly legs.



WARNING!

This book describes a lot of unusual foods and other disgusting things. Whatever you do, do not try to copy anything you read in this book on your own. If you’re in a restaurant that serves fried insects, for example, go ahead and try one. But don’t try catching your own and eating it. It could be poisonous, dangerous, or carrying germs. It might even be an endangered species.

Snot, or mucus (see page 94), helps us to stay healthy, but we find it gross anyway.



LEARNING DISGUST

The truth is, we find many things disgusting because of our culture – the beliefs and values we grow up with. As a child, you learn what is disgusting from people around you yelling “Oh! That’s gross”, “Urggggh”, and “That’s disgusting. Stop that at once!” In some cultures, for example, eating insects is normal; in others, people think it’s so horrible that they couldn’t do it if they tried.

DEFINITELY DISGUSTING

So, is disgustingness only in the eye of the beholder? Not always. For example, almost everyone in the world finds poo disgusting. It smells so bad that we instinctively know we need to keep away. This natural reaction protects us from the dangerous germs in poo and helps us to stay healthy.

TOILET HUMOUR

When you were four or five, you probably thought it was incredibly funny to shout “poo!” Hey, maybe you still do! Maybe you’re itching to turn to the rudest, yuckiest pages of this book and have a good giggle. This is normal, too. It’s called toilet humour. In all cultures, there are things that are considered too private, rude, or disgusting to talk about. Because they are forbidden, people – especially children – often find them fascinating and funny. Go ahead, turn the page!

Many wild animals have their own revolting habits. Hippopotamuses, for example (see page 37), spin their tails around when they poo, spraying muck everywhere!

YUCK FACTOR

-  A little gross
-  Quite off-putting
-  Yuck!
-  Really revolting
-  Totally disgusting!



DISGUSTING

From dung-munching beetles to flesh-eating maggots, from vomit-squirting baby birds to jelly-squirting cucumbers, from stinky mushrooms to plants that can gobble up a mouse – the natural world is full of





NATURE

truly gross living things. Of course, many of them are disgusting only to us – as far as they are concerned, they just survive, like all life on Earth. Read on to find out more about their horrible habits.

COCKROACH

You open your cupboard and reach in for a packet of pasta – uuuurrrggghh! It's **CRAWLING** with cockroaches! Cockroaches (or "roaches") are insects that look similar to beetles. Like mice, they love sharing our homes and our food. They often make people jump, shudder, or run screaming from the room! But how revolting are they, really?

DISEASE SPREADERS

Cockroaches do some really disgusting things. They can spread dangerous disease germs. And if there's a big cockroach infestation, they can also give off a vile smell, which comes from cockroach poo and dead cockroach bodies. Yuck!

SPEEDY-CRAWLIES

Cockroaches can run really fast – and this may be one reason why people find them so unnerving. A cockroach can skitter across your floor at 5.6 km/h (3½ mph). Considering how small a cockroach is, that's like a human running at more than 300 km/h (190 mph). And even weirder, to reach their top speed, some roaches stand up like humans and run on their hind legs.

Cockroaches feast on someone's half-eaten sandwich.

YUCK FACTOR!



No one loves them, but cockroaches only bother you if you give them food.

TOP TIP! To keep cockroaches away, keep all your food wrapped and sealed well. Always wipe up spilt food, so there's nothing for them to nibble.

DID YOU KNOW?

A cockroach can survive for several weeks without eating, and even without its head!

