

**Awful, Disgusting Parasites**

# BEDBUGS

MARGARET MINCKS



**BLACK  
RABBIT  
BOOKS**



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# Meet the Bedbug

When the sun is up, bedbugs stay hidden. They camp out in beds and walls. But at night, they crawl out for a snack. What's on the menu? Blood!

Bedbugs are **parasites**. They live and feed on humans and other animals. They are only about the size of apple seeds. Their small size makes them hard to find.



# BEDBUG BODY PARTS

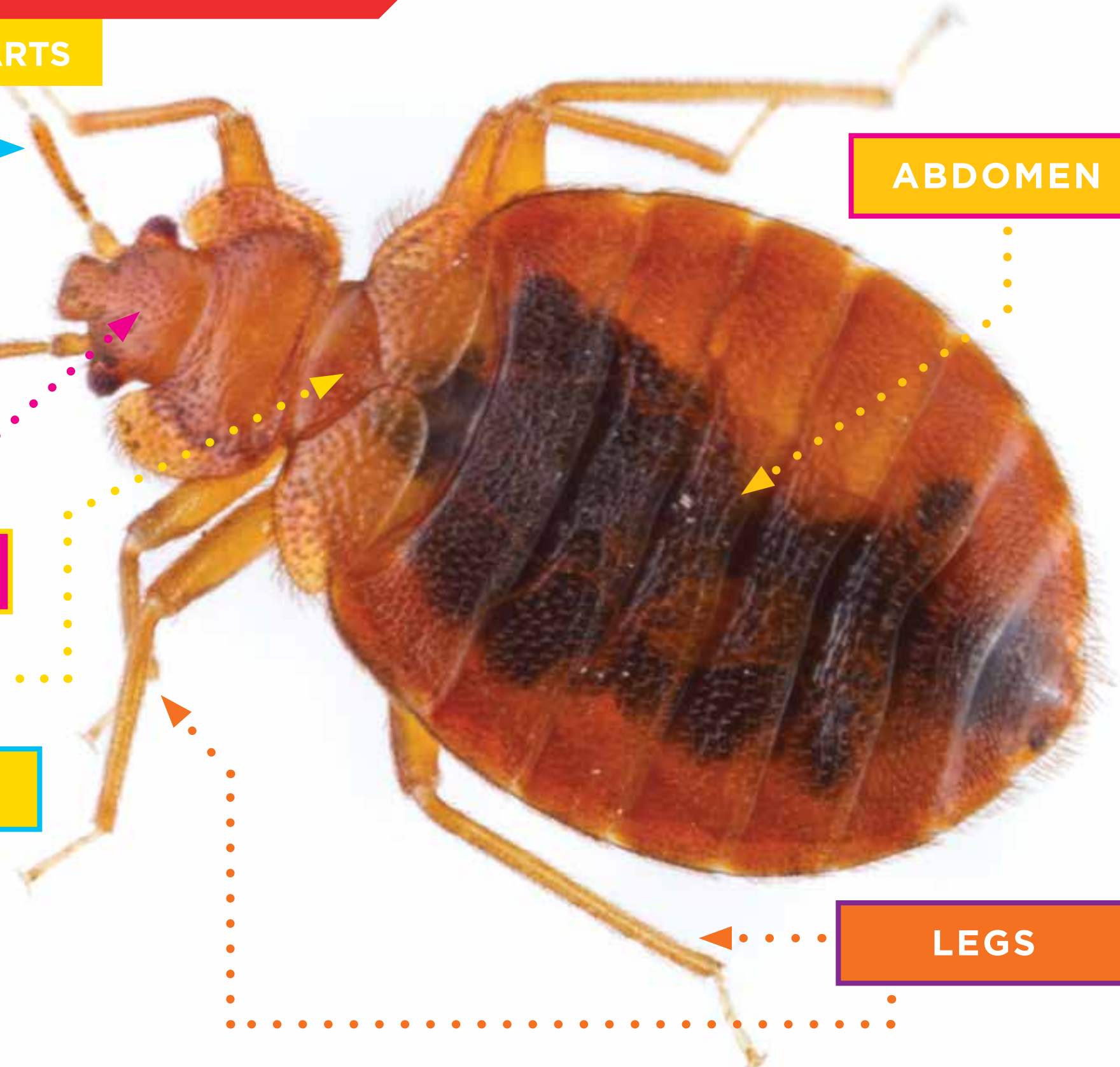
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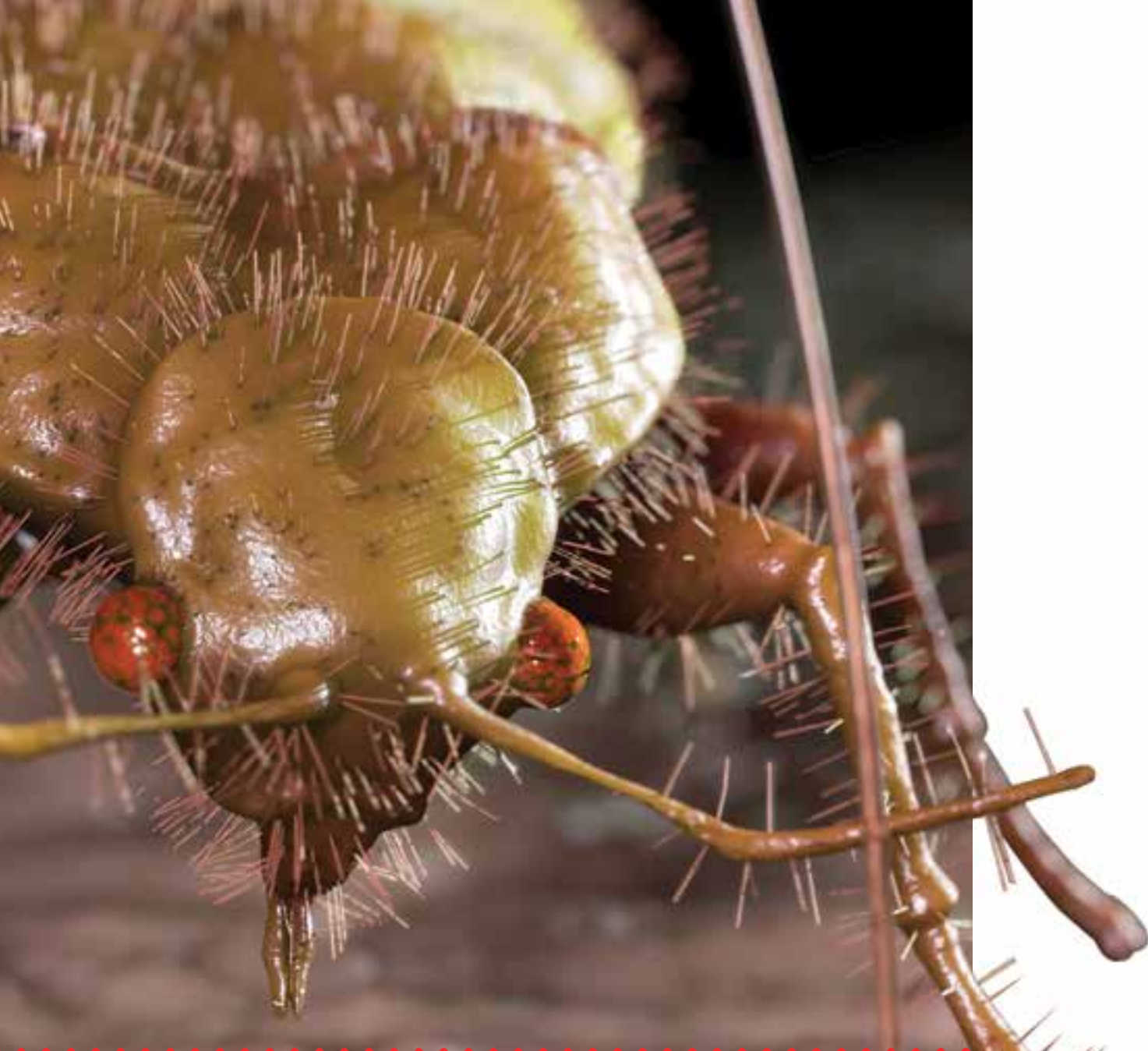
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HEAD

THORAX

LEGS





## Hungry Hitchhikers

Bedbugs can't fly or jump. Instead, they crawl. Sometimes they tag along in **luggage**. They also catch rides on pets and clothing.

All that travel makes bedbugs hungry. First, they crawl on a human or other animal. Then they bite. When bedbugs bite, their spit gets into their victims. Bedbug spit has a special ingredient that **numbs** the skin. The victims don't feel a thing!



Bedbugs sometimes poop on their victims after eating.