

**No  
Backbone!**

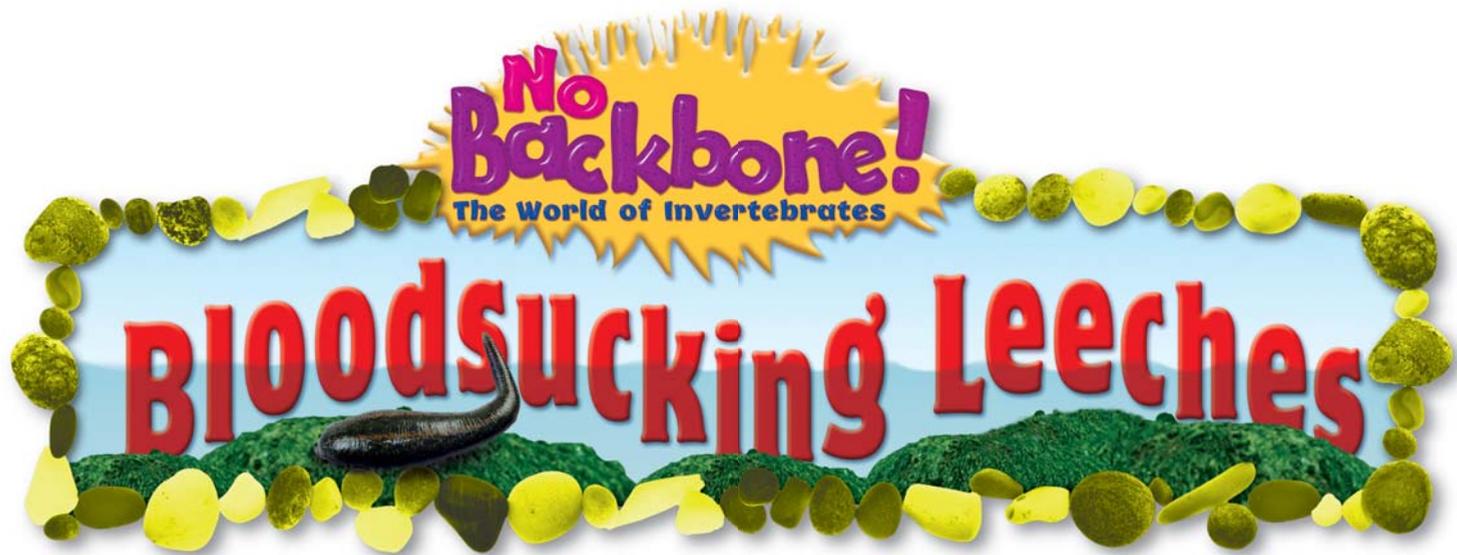
The World of Invertebrates

# BLOODSUCKING LEECHES



by Pearl Neuman

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by Pearl Neuman

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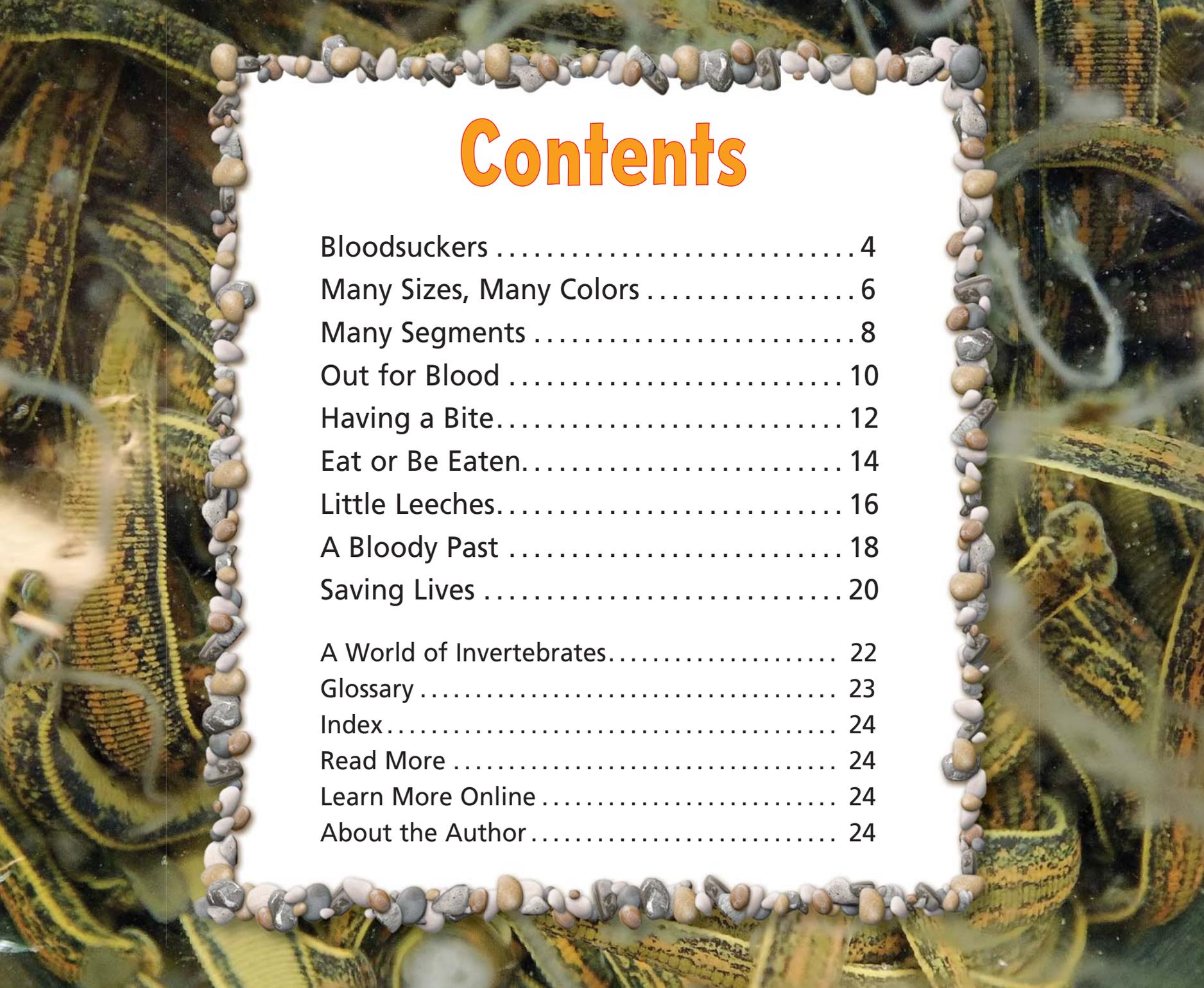
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The background of the page features a detailed illustration of a leech, showing its segmented body and suckers. The leech is depicted in shades of green, yellow, and brown. A decorative border of smooth, multi-colored stones (white, grey, tan, and brown) frames the central text area.

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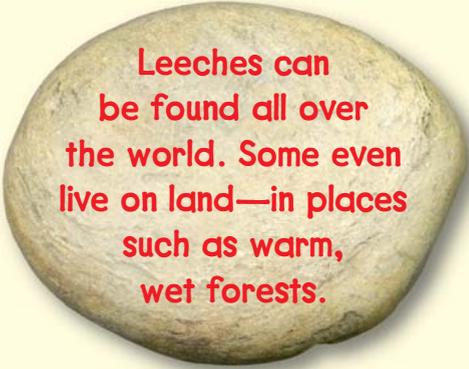
# Bloodsuckers

Leeches are worms that live in swamps, ponds, and other watery places.

Some leeches eat tiny fish and snails.

Most leeches, however, get their food in a different way.

They suck blood from animals—including people!



Leeches can be found all over the world. Some even live on land—in places such as warm, wet forests.





**leeches in  
water**

# Many Sizes, Many Colors

There are more than 650 kinds of leeches.

Some are less than half an inch (1 cm) long.

Others stretch out to 12 inches (30 cm) or more.

The largest leech in the world is the Amazon leech.

It can grow up to 18 inches (46 cm) in length.



Many leeches are black or brown. Some, however, are very colorful with bright stripes or spots.



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## Read More

**Kite, L. Patricia.**

*Leeches*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner (2005).

**Somervill, Barbara A.** *Leeches:*

*Waiting in the Water*. New York: PowerKids Press (2008).

**Wyborny, Sheila.**

*Leeches*. Farmington Hills, MI: KidHaven Press (2005).

## Learn More Online

To learn more about leeches, visit

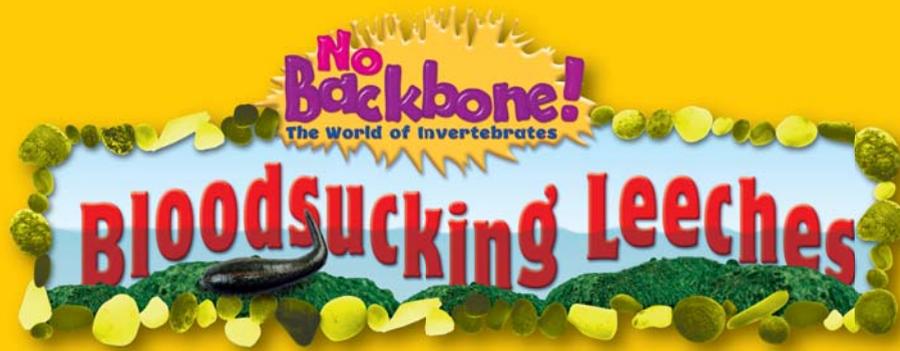
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## About the Author

Pearl Neuman lives in Bergen County, New Jersey. She does her best to avoid leeches and other bloodsuckers.



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What do leeches eat when they're hungry? Some catch tiny fish and snails. Most leeches, however, get their food in a different way. They feed on the blood of animals—including people! Look inside to discover more fascinating facts about these bloodsucking creatures.

**Bloodsucking Leeches**

**Creeping Land Snails**

**Leggy Centipedes**

**Roly-Poly Pillbugs**

**Stinging Scorpions**

**Wiggly Earthworms**

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