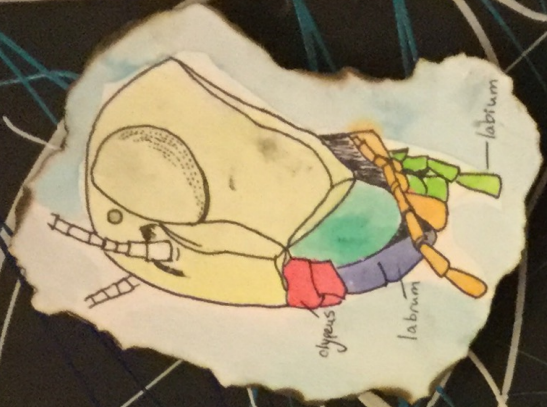
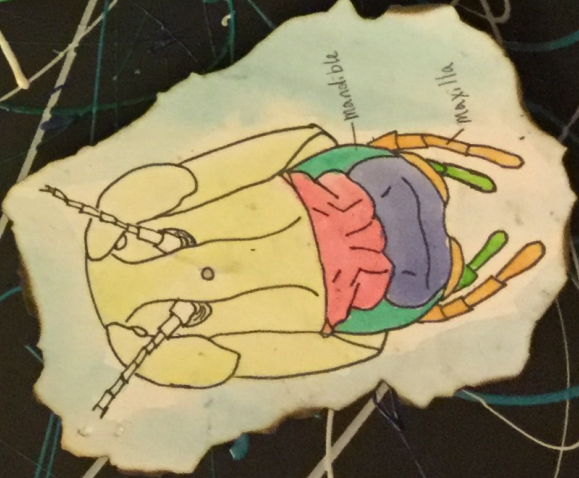


# THE MOUTHPARTS OF INSECTS



**What Makes the Mouth of an Insect That Chews?**

- **Clypeus:** Part of head that connects the frons to the labrum.
- **Labrum:**
  - Upper jaw/the upper lip. It's used to pull the food in.
  - Moves longitudinally (up and down).
- **Mandible:**
  - First pair of jaws.
  - Rather than moving up and down like our jaws, the jaws move laterally.
  - Mandibles are definitely useful as they are used to cut, chew and tear food, and carry things too.
  - They can also fight and form building resources with wax or soil.
- **Maxilla (pl. Maxillae):**
  - Second pair of jaws found behind the mandibles.
  - Maxillae are used to handle the food.
  - They move the same way the mandibles do - laterally.
  - The maxillae have maxillary palps that are equivalent to the human tongue and lips. They have fine hairs that let them feel the texture of their food.
- **Labium:**
  - Lower jaw/lower lip.
  - Often referred to the maxillae.
  - Like the maxillae, it also has palps called the labial palps.
  - In contrast to the movement of the maxillae and mandible the labium moves up and down.



**Insect mouths, particularly those that belong to chewing insects, certainly do have quite strange more parts moving longitudinally, and two that they can use it to fight and build! Have you ever seen that on a human? How 'bout on a bear? Or? Octopus? Fish? Eagle? Not only have that feature.**