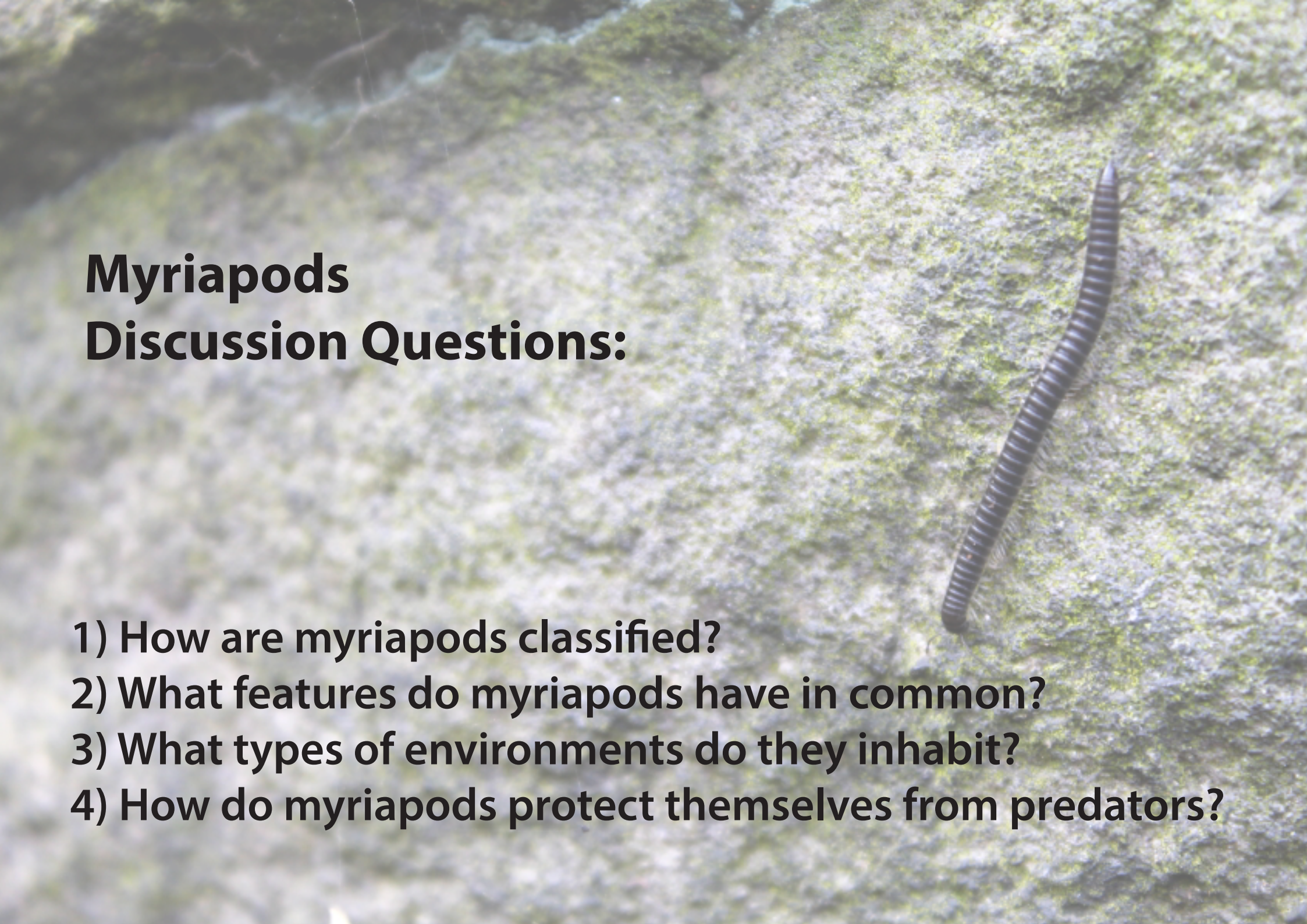

Myriapods
Discussion Questions:

1) How are myriapods classified?
2) What features do myriapods have in common?
3) What types of environments do they inhabit?
4) How do myriapods protect themselves from predators?

MYRIAPODA

- Have an exoskeleton.
- Have many legs and one pair of antennae.
- Have segmented bodies.
- Molt by shedding outer skeleton to allow for growth.
- Lay eggs.

CENTIPEDES

* venomous
* one pair of legs per segment
* legs visible at side of body
* fast runners

MILLIPEDES

* non-venomous
* one to two pairs of legs per segment
* legs underneath body
* slow walking

How did centipedes and millipedes get their names?

From Latin!

Centipedes

Latin: centi (hundred) + pedere (foot)

Millipedes

Latin: mille (thousand) + pedere (foot)

Centipedes

Centipedes might look like they have a hundred legs but this is usually not the case!

Centipedes have one pair of legs for every segment of their body, so the number of legs they have depends on how many body segments they have.

Centipedes can give you a nasty bite. They have a strong pair of pincers on the underside of their head segment that injects a venom into the skin. The bite is similar to that of a bee sting or ant bite.

Millipedes

MIllipedes are similar to centipedes. They have a lot of legs, though they certainly do not have a thousand legs!

Millipedes have one pair of legs on each of the first five segments of their body. The remaining segments consist of pairs of fused segments, so it appears that they have two pairs of legs for every remaining segment on their bodies.

They are harmless creatures. They do not have pincers and so do not bite. Instead of attacking, millipedes roll themselves into a tight ball when threatened.

Life Cycle of Myriapods

Myriapoda are generally forest floor dwellers. However, they tolerate a variety of climates and can be found in a variety of habitats.

They lay eggs in the soil amongst leaf litter. Young centipedes and millipedes shed their hard outer skin many times to accommodate their new growth.