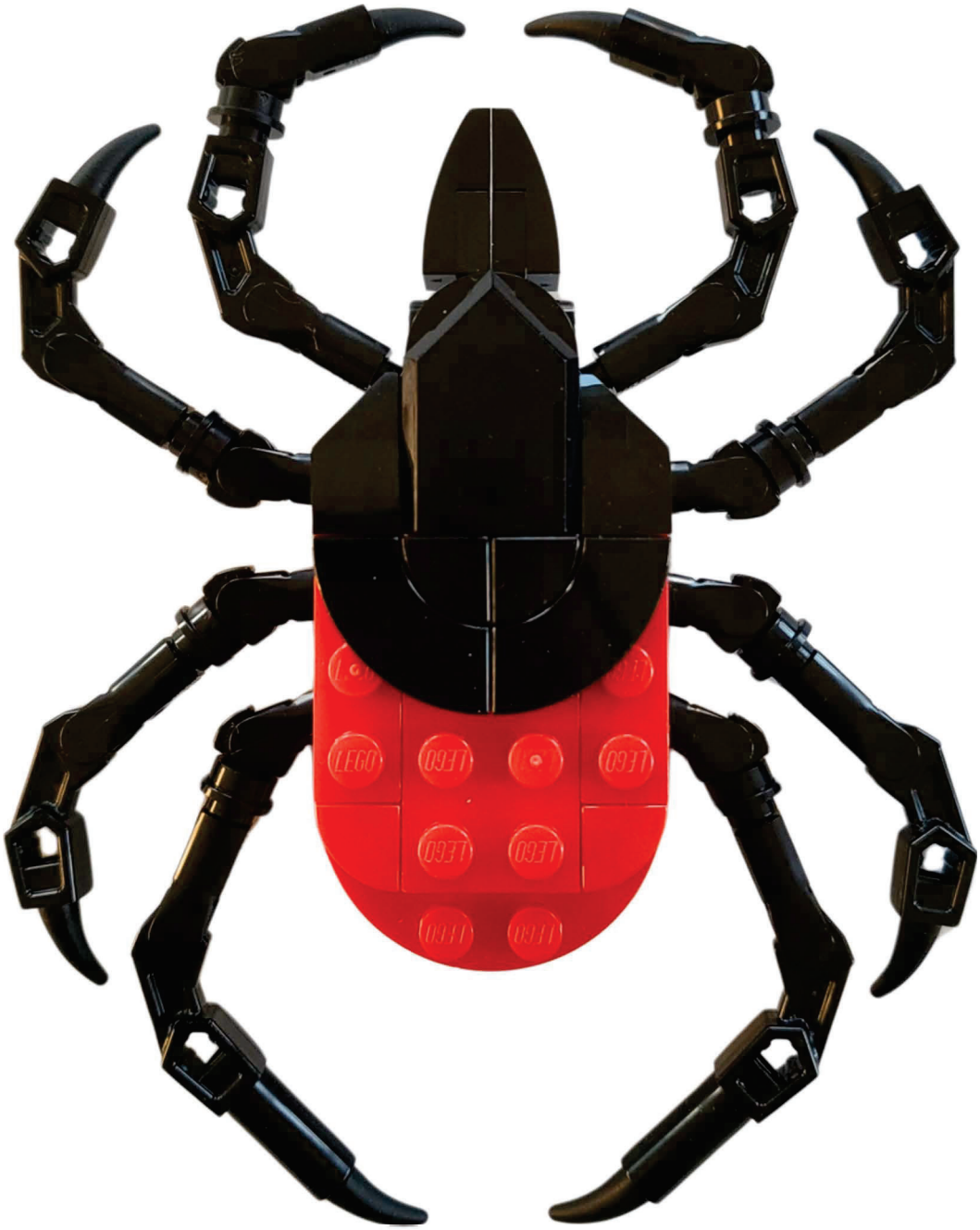


BLACKLEGGED/ DEER TICK

BUILD-A-TICK KIT

Midwest Center of Excellence
VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH SERVICES

The Blacklegged Tick



FACTS

The blacklegged tick (also called the deer tick) is known for transmitting the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**.

WHAT IS LYME DISEASE?

AND WHAT IS THE BLACKLEGGED TICK?
(ALSO KNOWN AS THE DEER TICK)



LYME DISEASE IS AN ILLNESS

Caused by the bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Borrelia mayonii*. People usually get Lyme disease from the bite of a deer tick carrying this bacteria.

THE BLACKLEGGED OR DEER TICK



This tick can be found in woods throughout Wisconsin.

NO MATTER WHAT SEASON IT IS...



If you spend time outdoors where ticks live, like grassy, brushy, or wooded areas, you are at risk for Lyme disease.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

OR MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND PETS?

FOLLOW THESE THREE STEPS:

1

Before you go outside...

- Wear long sleeves, pants, and lighter-colored clothes.
- Tuck your socks into your pants, and wear closed-toe shoes.
- Use bug repellent on your clothes, and ask a parent or trusted adult to help you apply them safely.

2

While you're outside...

- Watch out for ticks when in places that ticks love to hang out, like grassy, brushy, and wooded areas.
- Check your clothes 1-3 times while you play to see if any ticks have grabbed on.

3

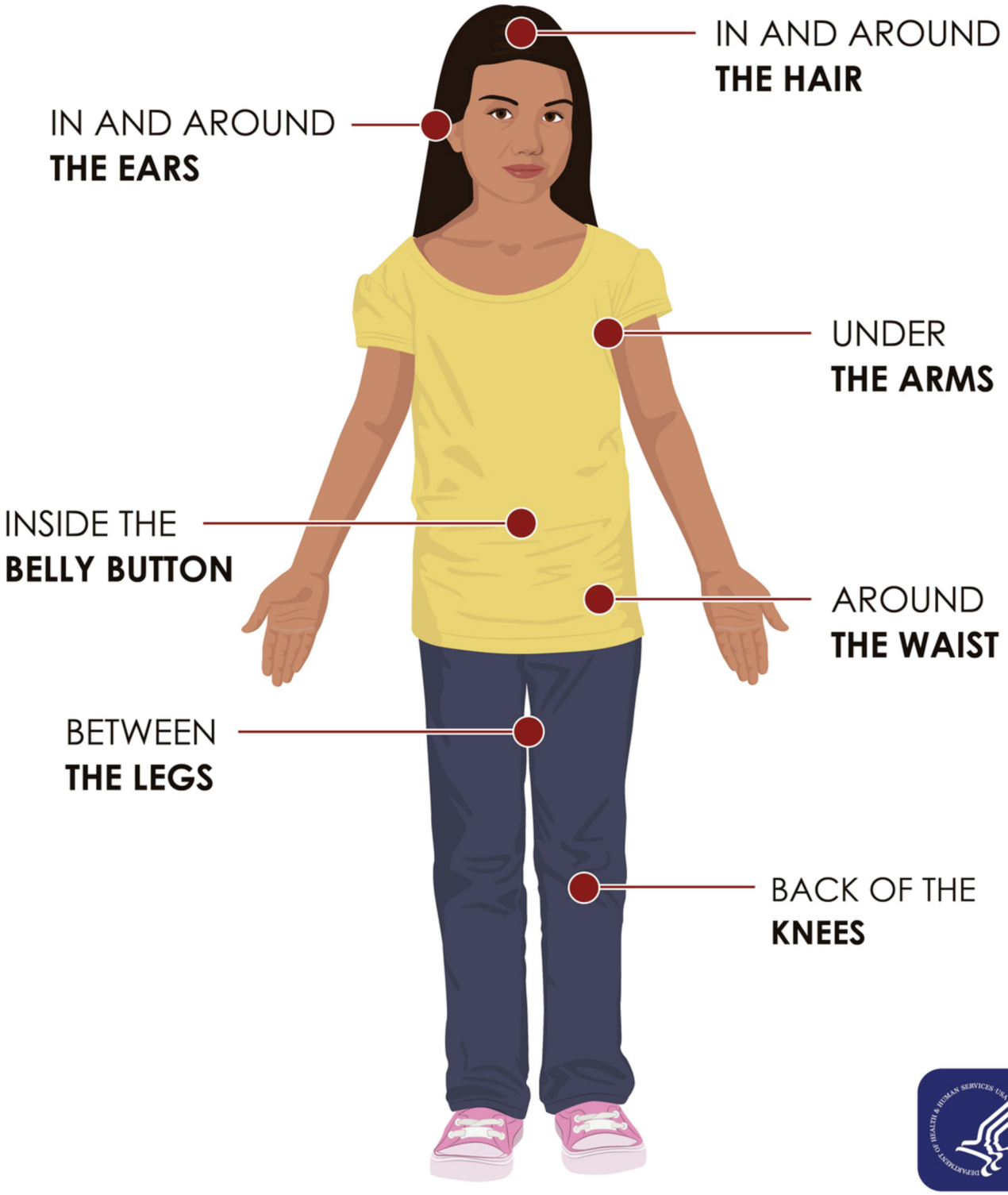
When you come indoors...

- Check yourself for ticks, and/or ask a parent or trusted adult to help you check for ticks.
- Throw your outdoor clothes in the dryer right away and have a parent run it on high for 15 minutes.
- Take a shower within **2 hours** of coming inside. While in the shower, you can check for any ticks on your body.

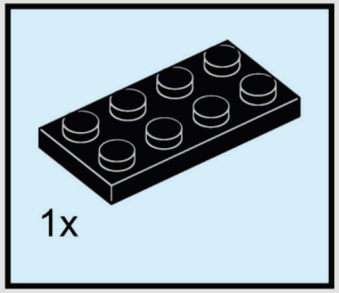
IF YOU FIND A TICK ON YOU, TELL A PARENT OR OTHER TRUSTED ADULT

WHERE SHOULD I CHECK FOR TICKS?

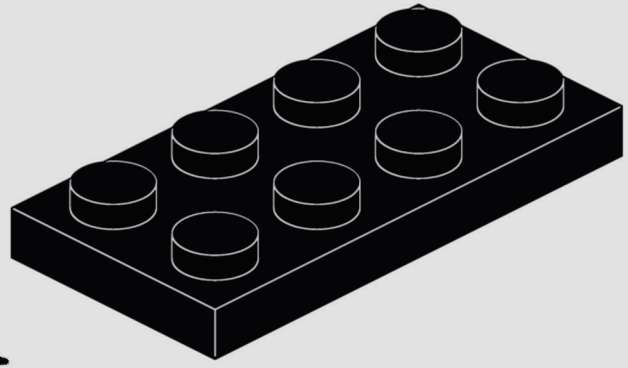
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS A TICK HIDING ON YOUR BODY



1





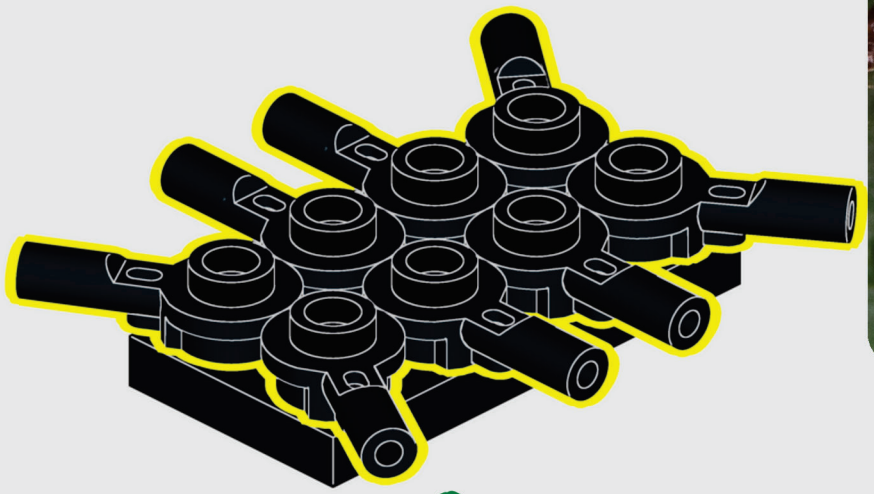




To build a female blacklegged tick, we will first begin with the piece that will be the tick's body.

2



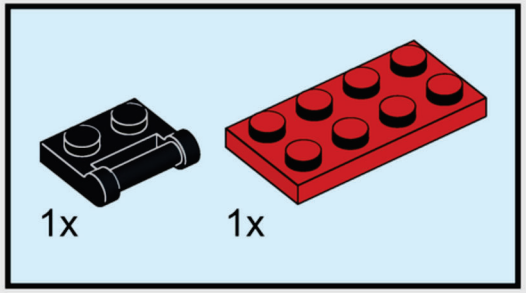


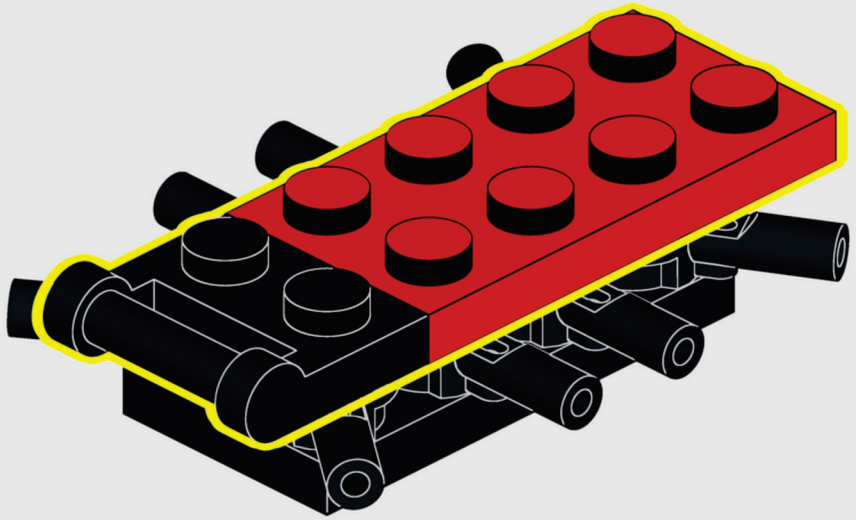




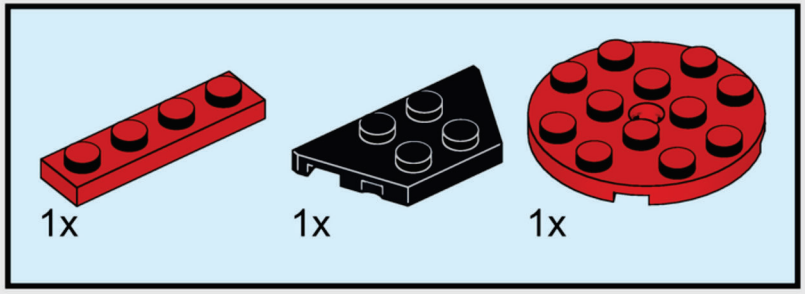
We are going to add eight pieces that will connect the body to each leg. This part is called the coxa.

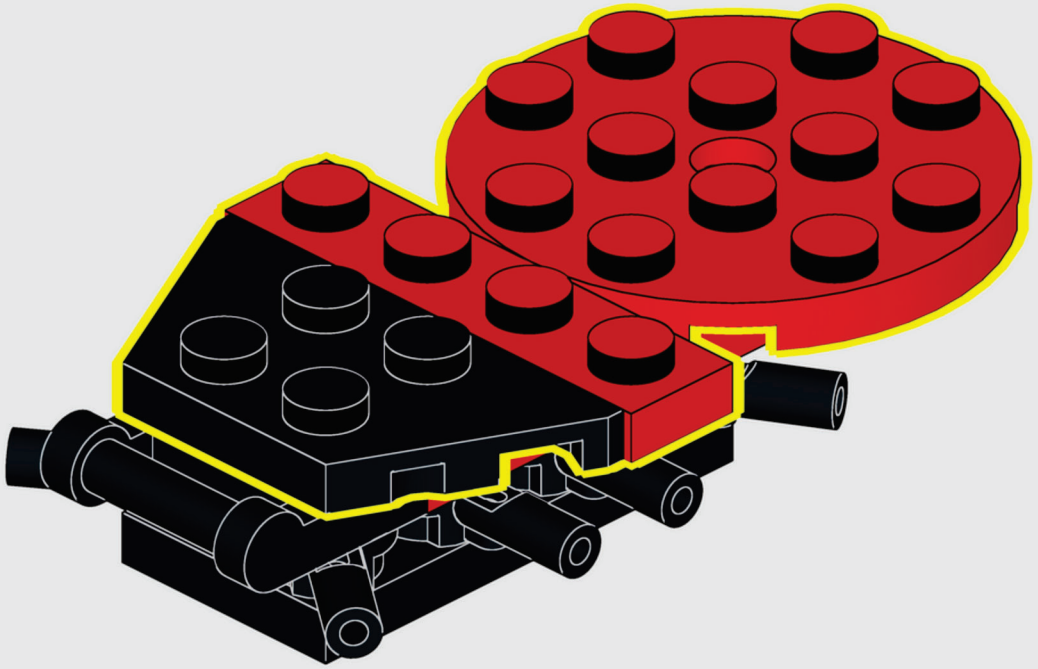
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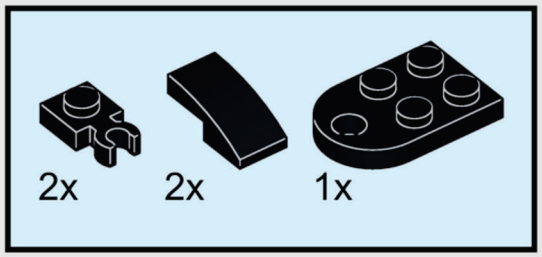


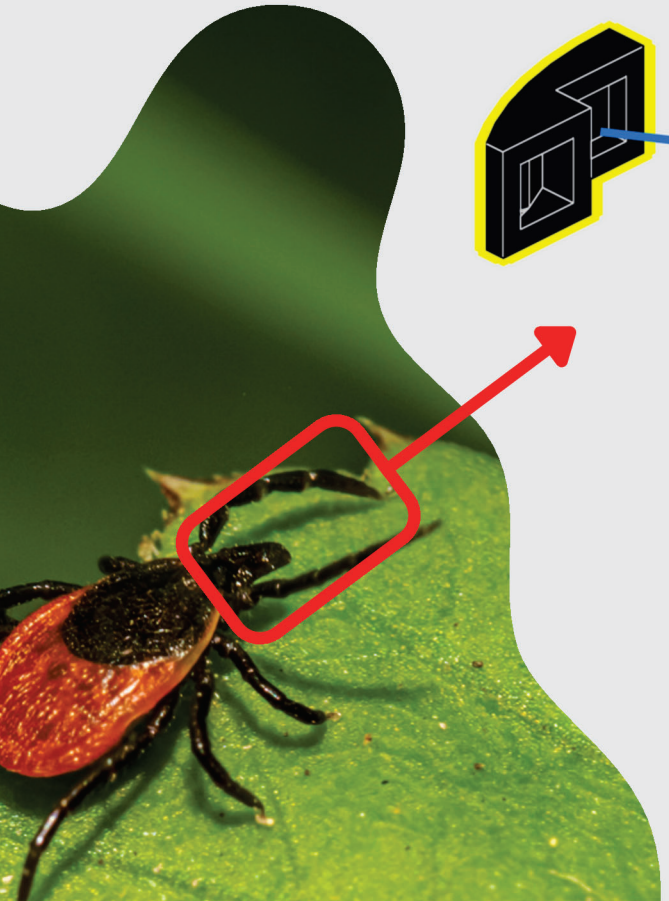
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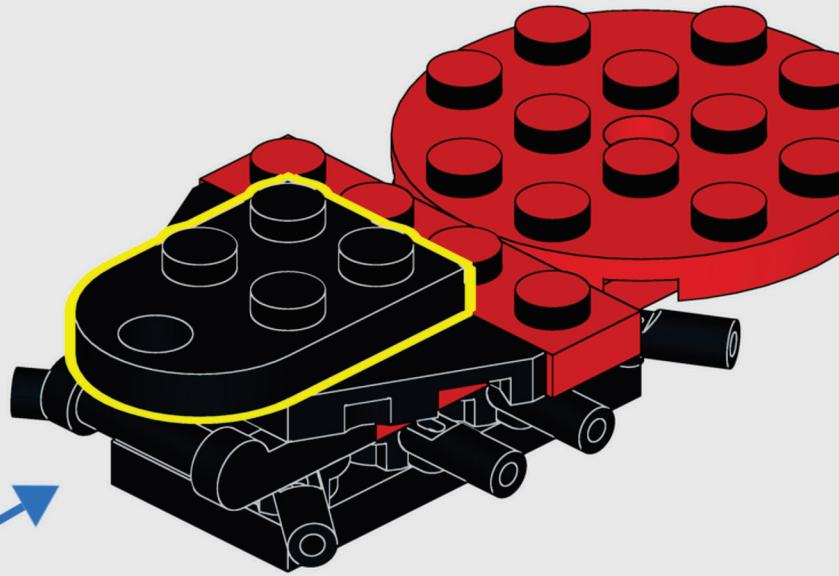


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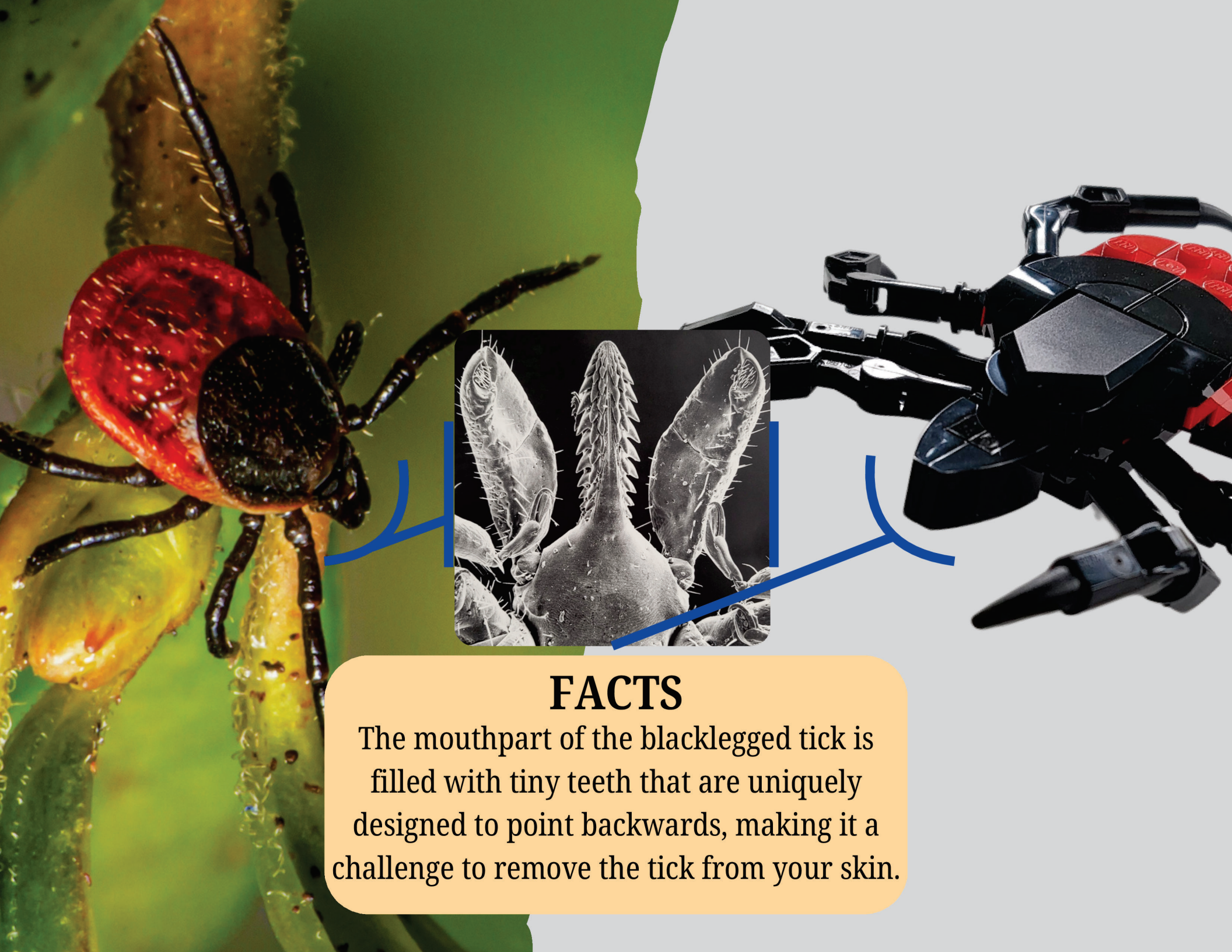








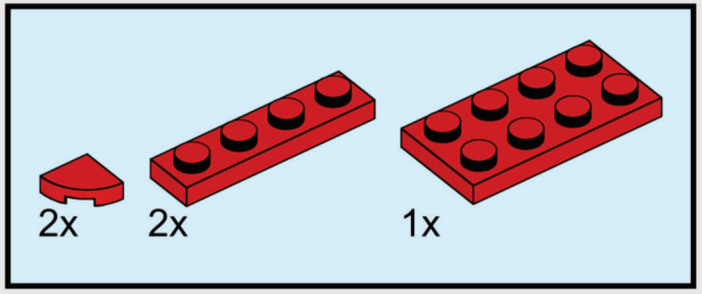
We will build and attach the mouthparts of the tick to the body.

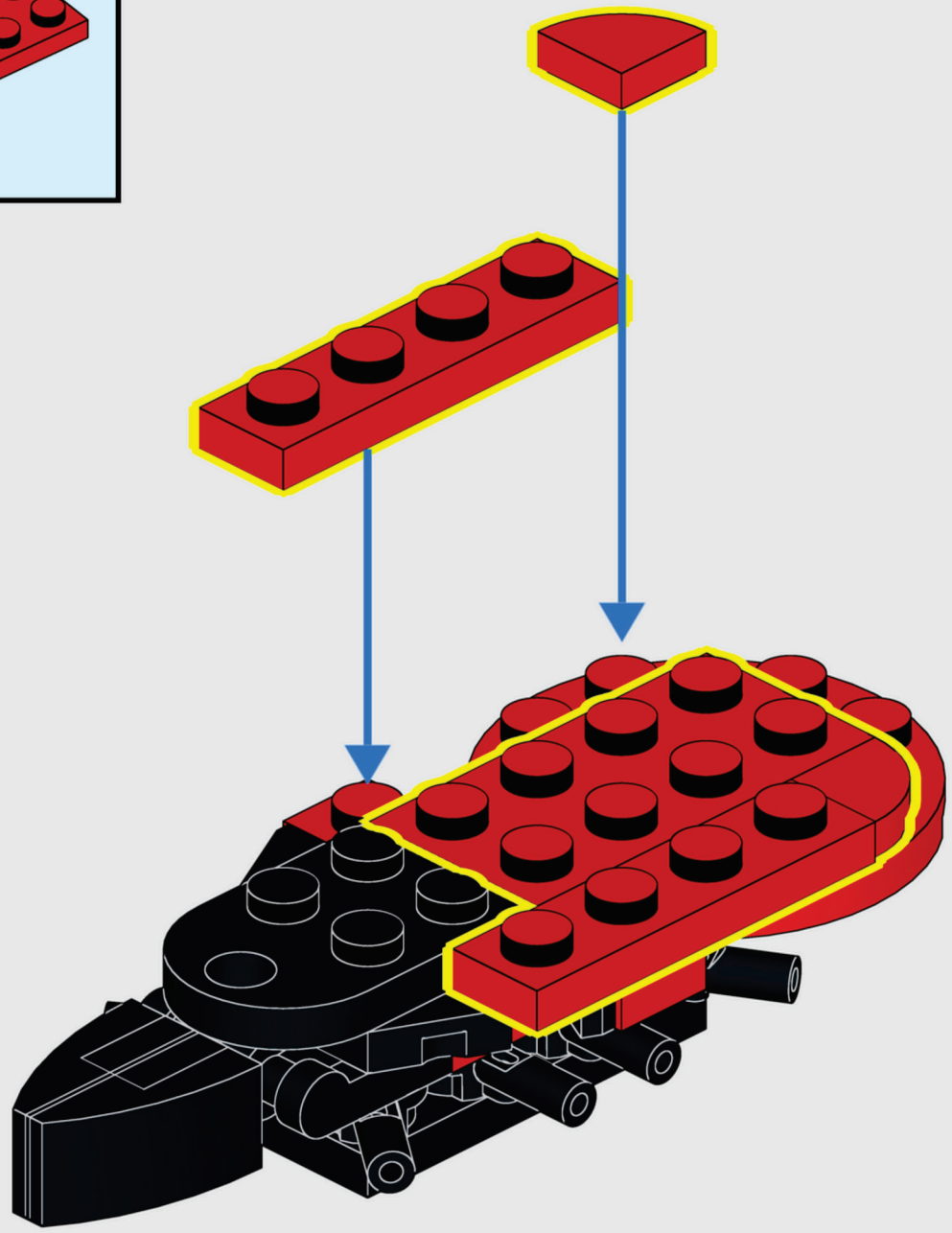


FACTS

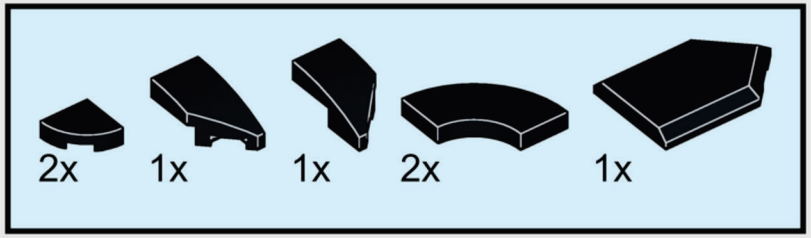
The mouthpart of the blacklegged tick is filled with tiny teeth that are uniquely designed to point backwards, making it a challenge to remove the tick from your skin.

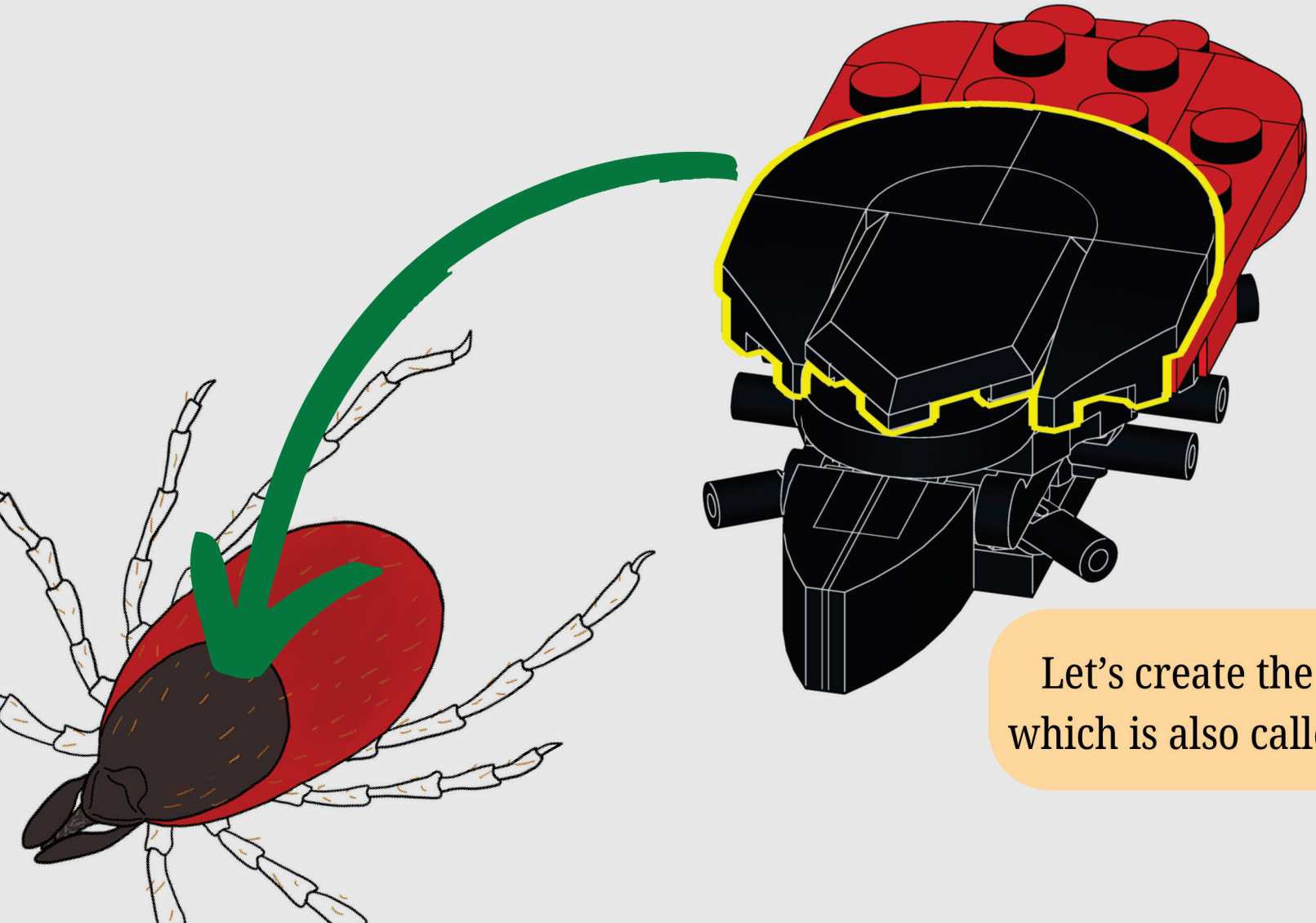
6





7





Let’s create the tick's shield, which is also called the scutum.



Female blacklegged tick. Small scutum that covers half of the body.

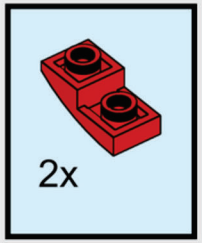


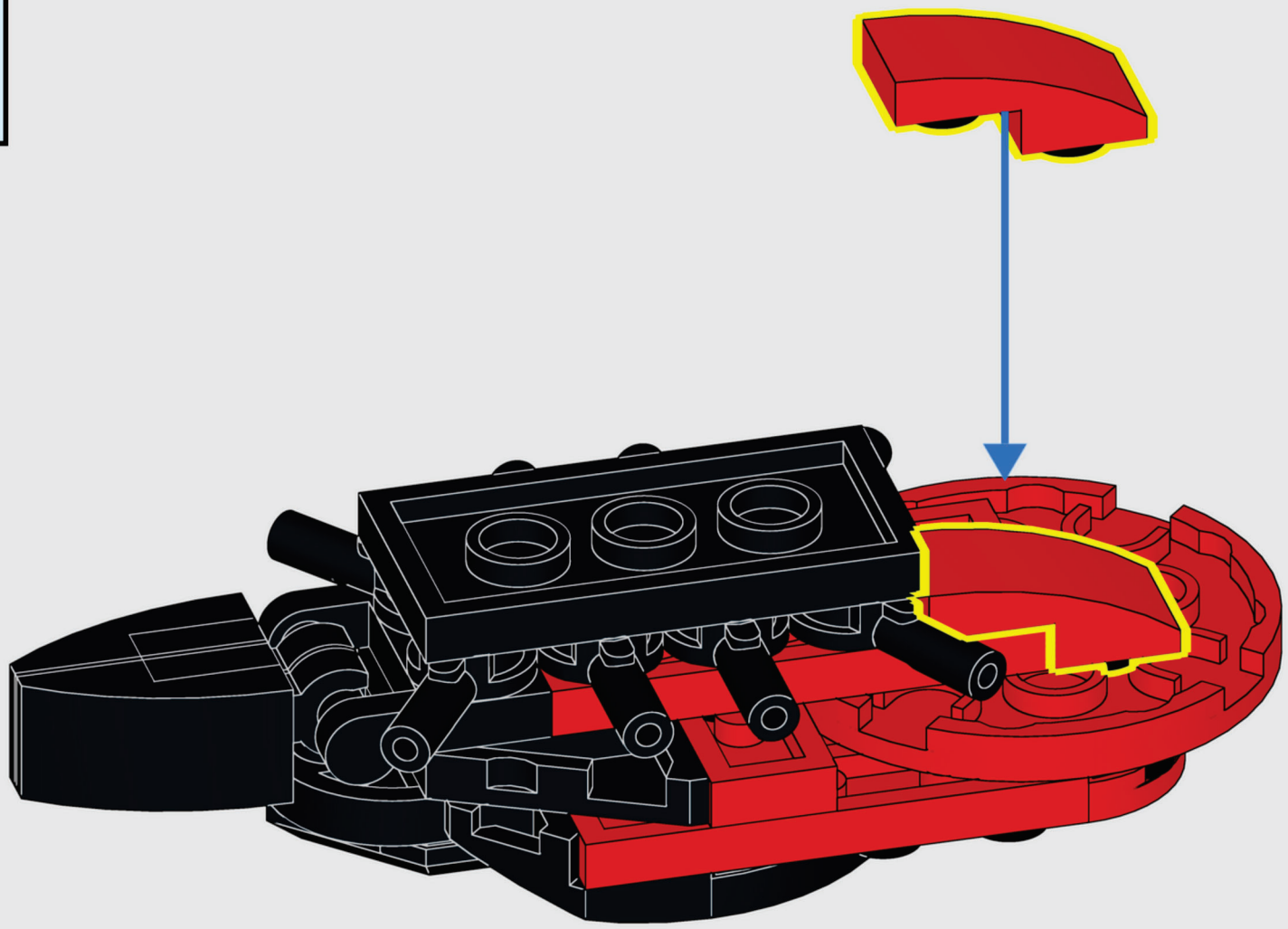
Male blacklegged tick. Large scutum that covers the whole body.

FACTS

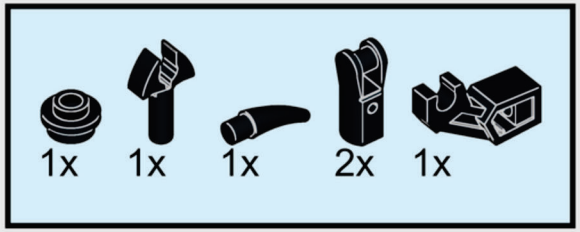
The shield (scutum) is a crucial part of a tick's body. While it covers the entire body of male ticks, it doesn't for females. This is because females need to drink blood to make eggs, and a full shield would stop their bodies from expanding. The shield also serves as a tick's unique identifier, as it differs for each tick species. For instance, the blacklegged tick's shield is oval-shaped, dark, and plain.

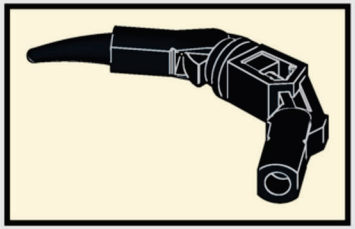
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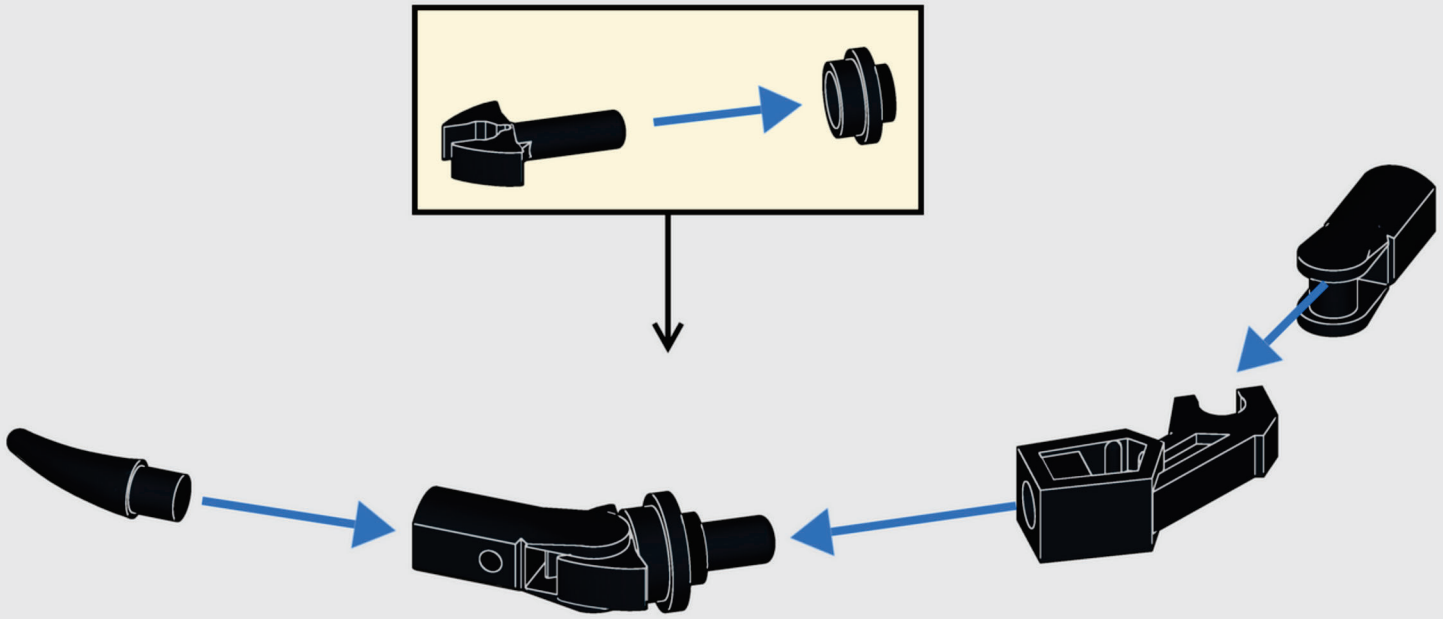


9



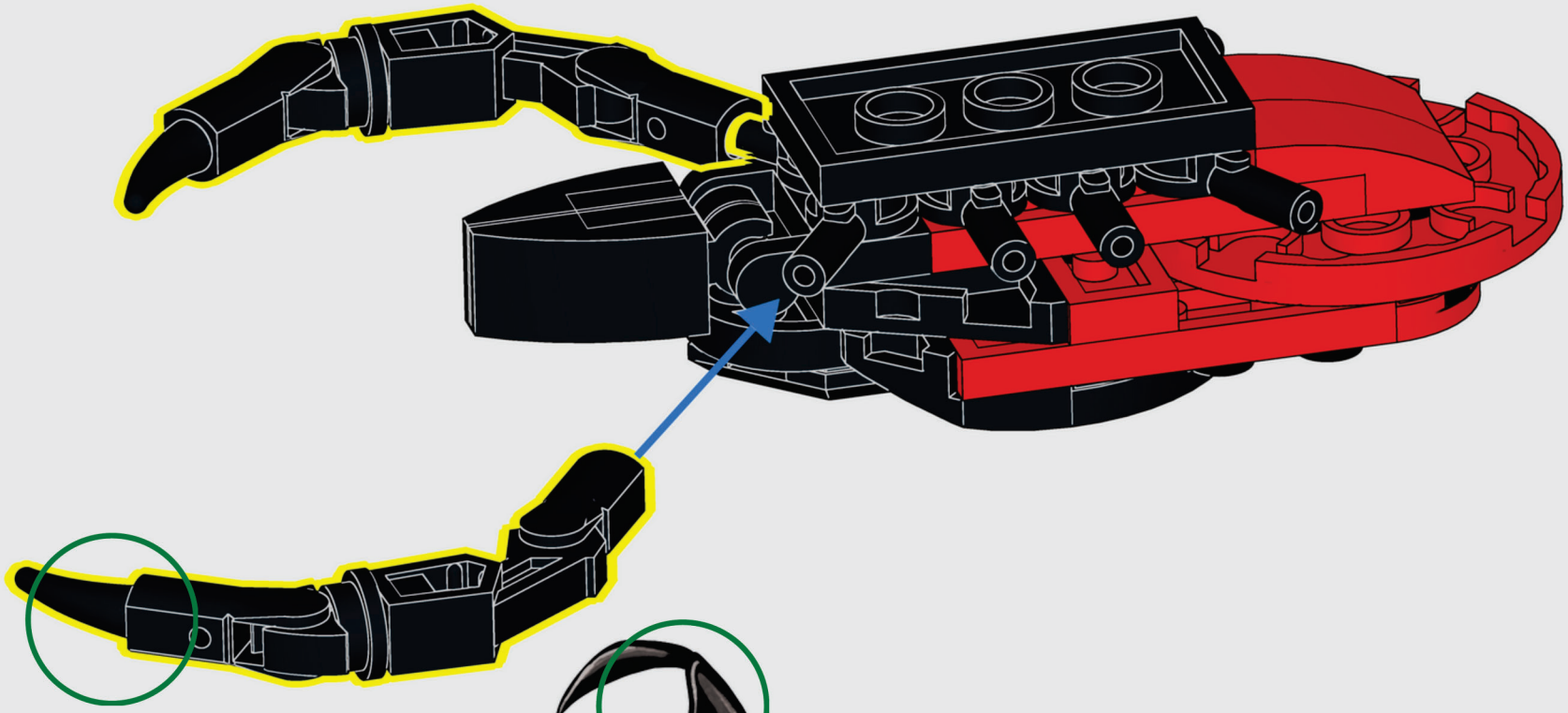


2x



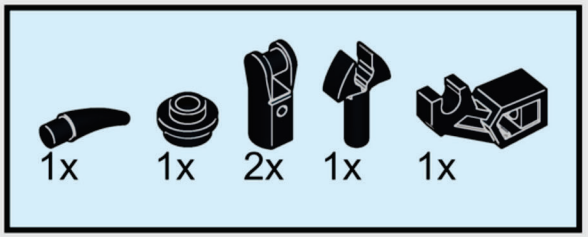
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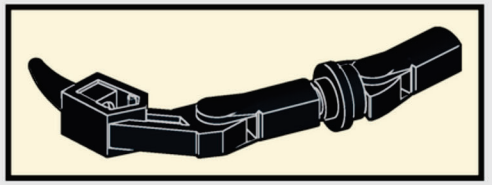
Ticks, like spiders, have four pairs of legs, totaling eight legs. In the first pair, they have an organ known as Haller's organ capsule. This organ plays a crucial role in their survival, helping them detect heat and chemical odors from humans and other animals.



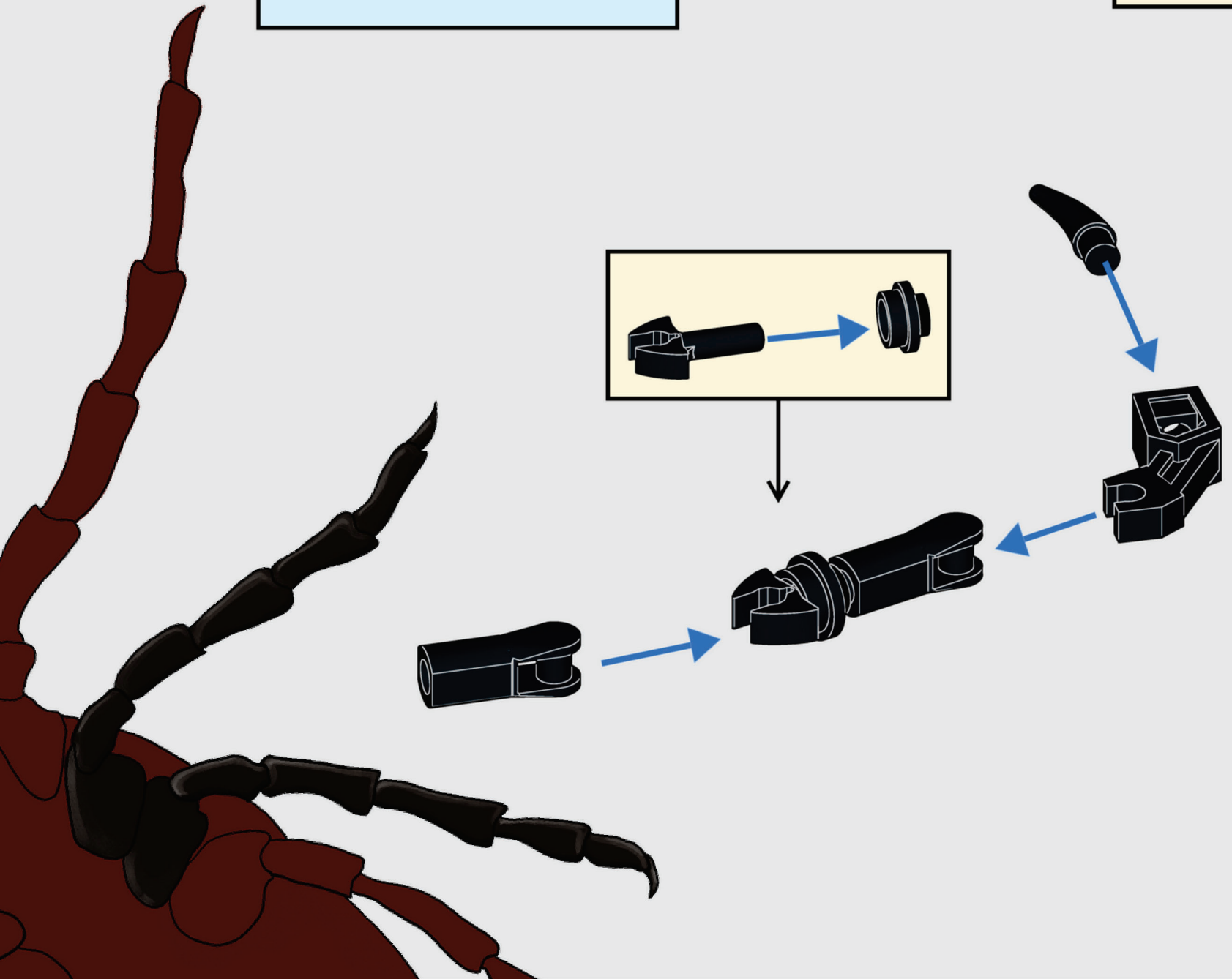
Haller's organ capsule

11

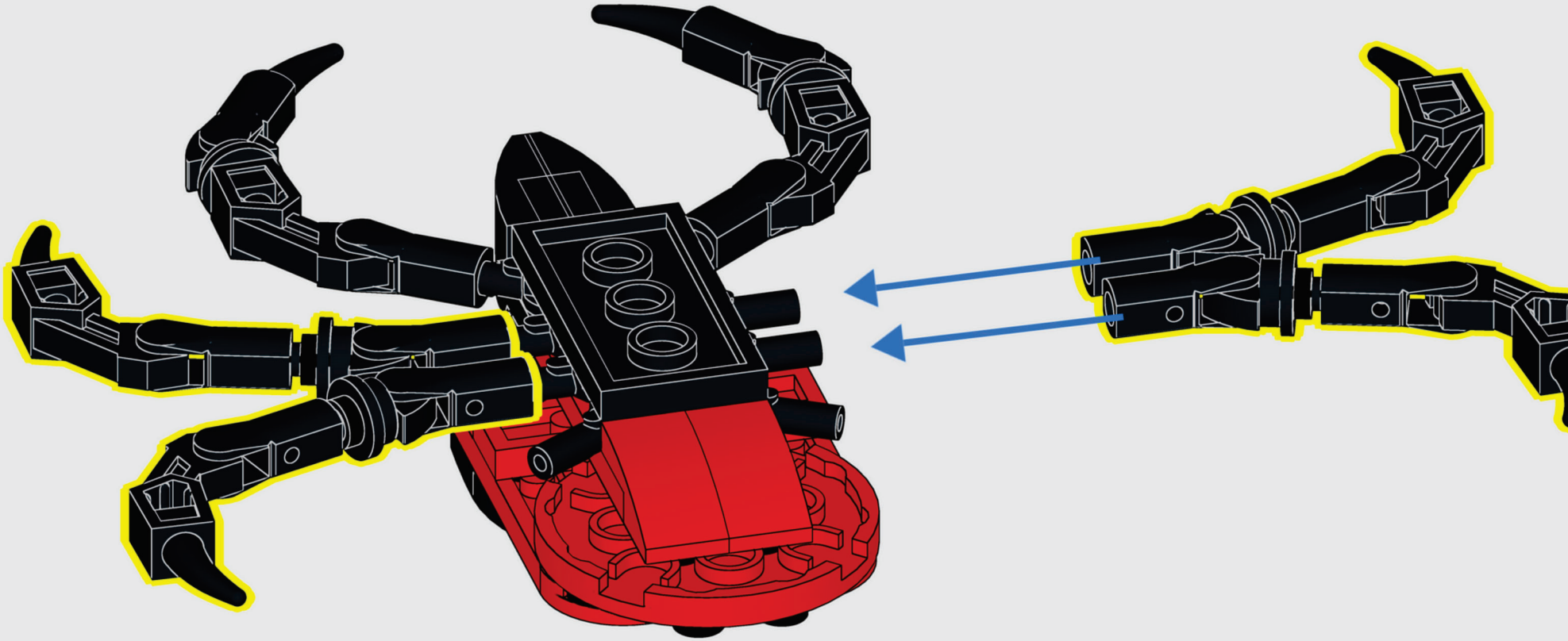




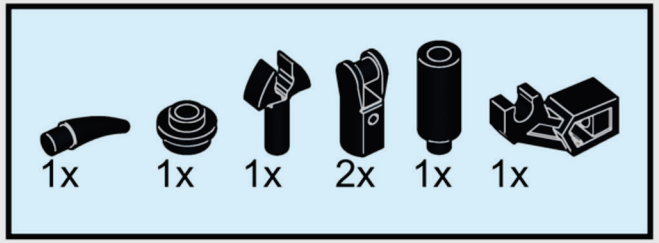
4x

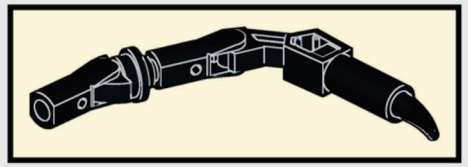


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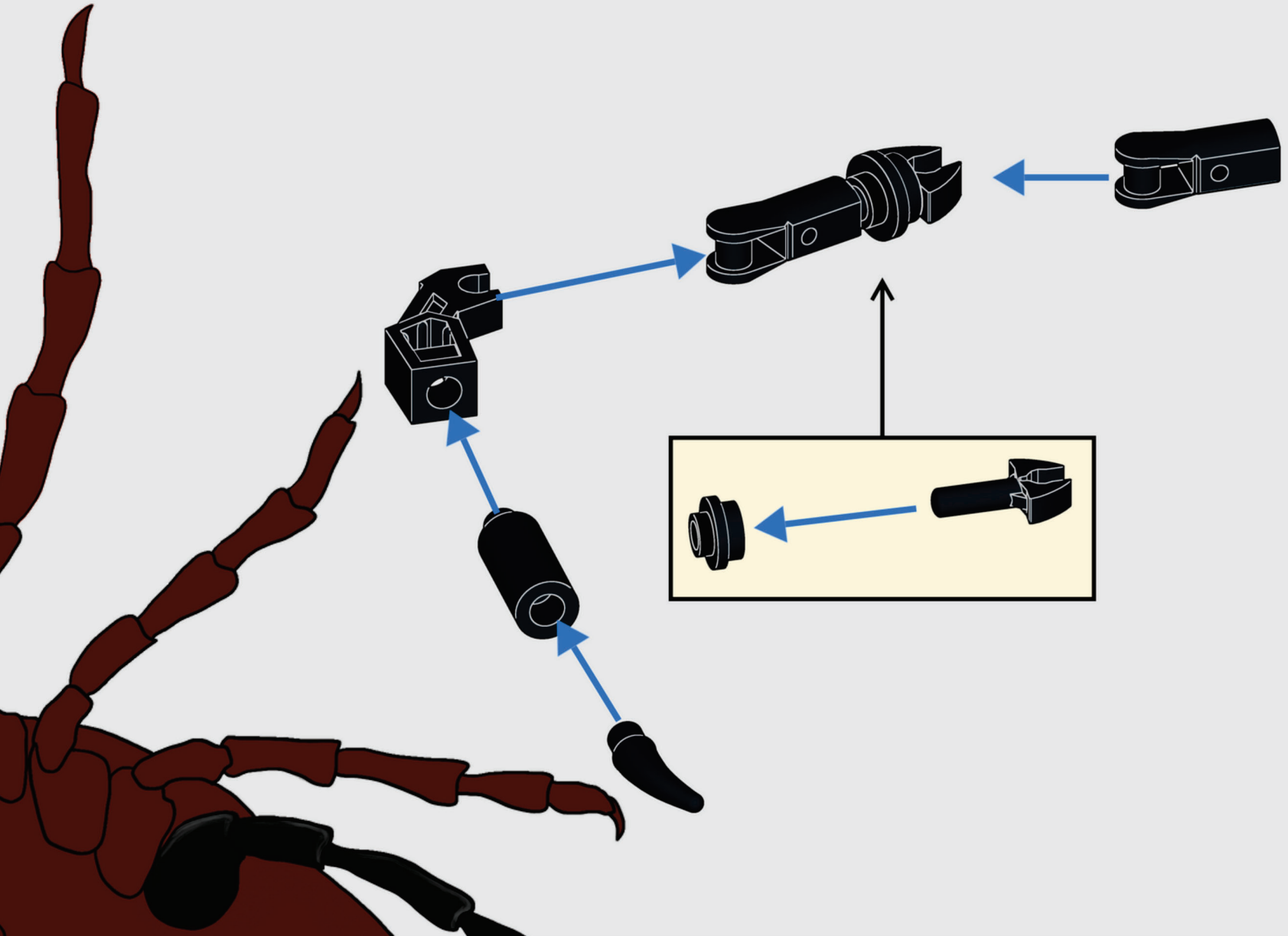


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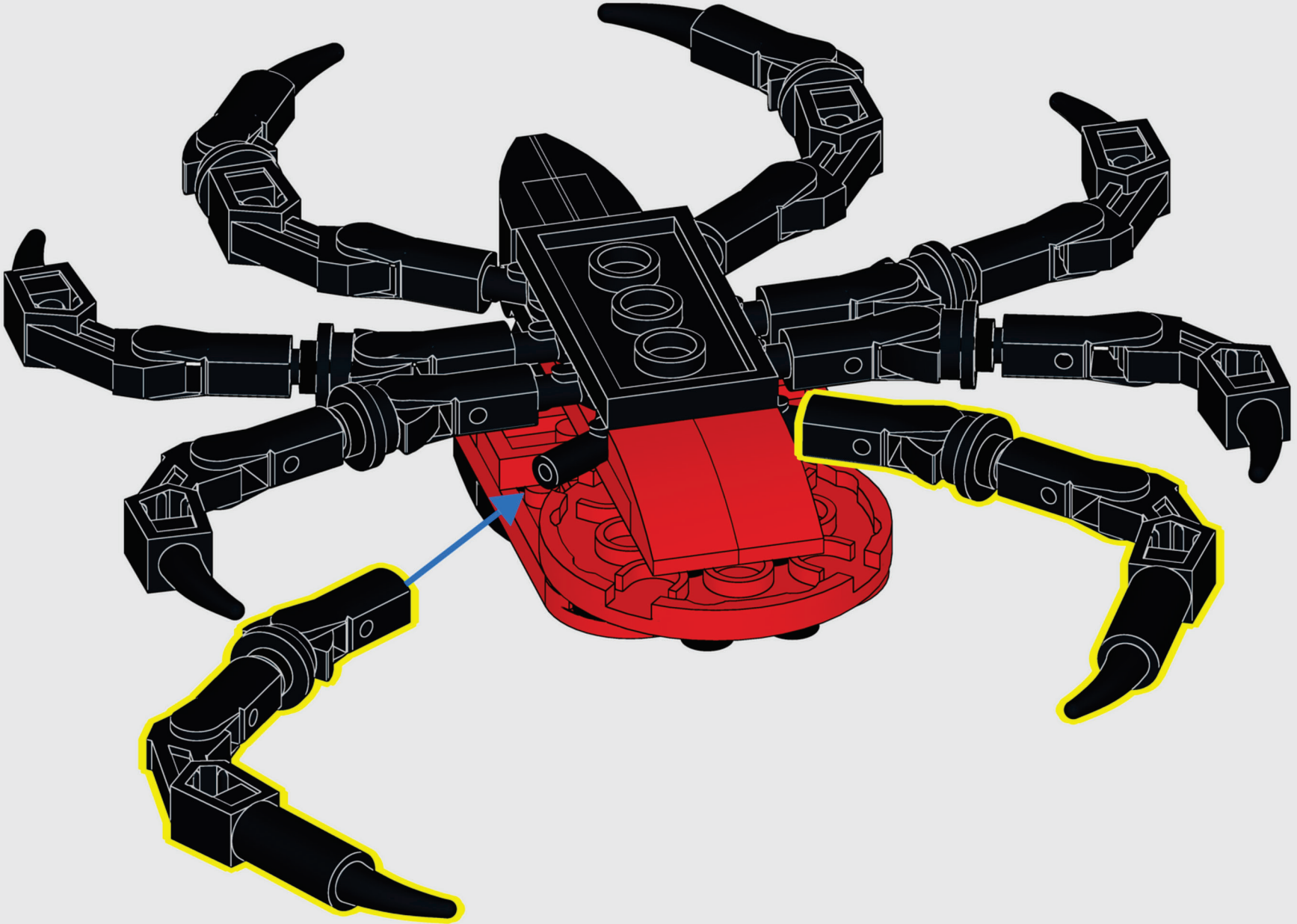




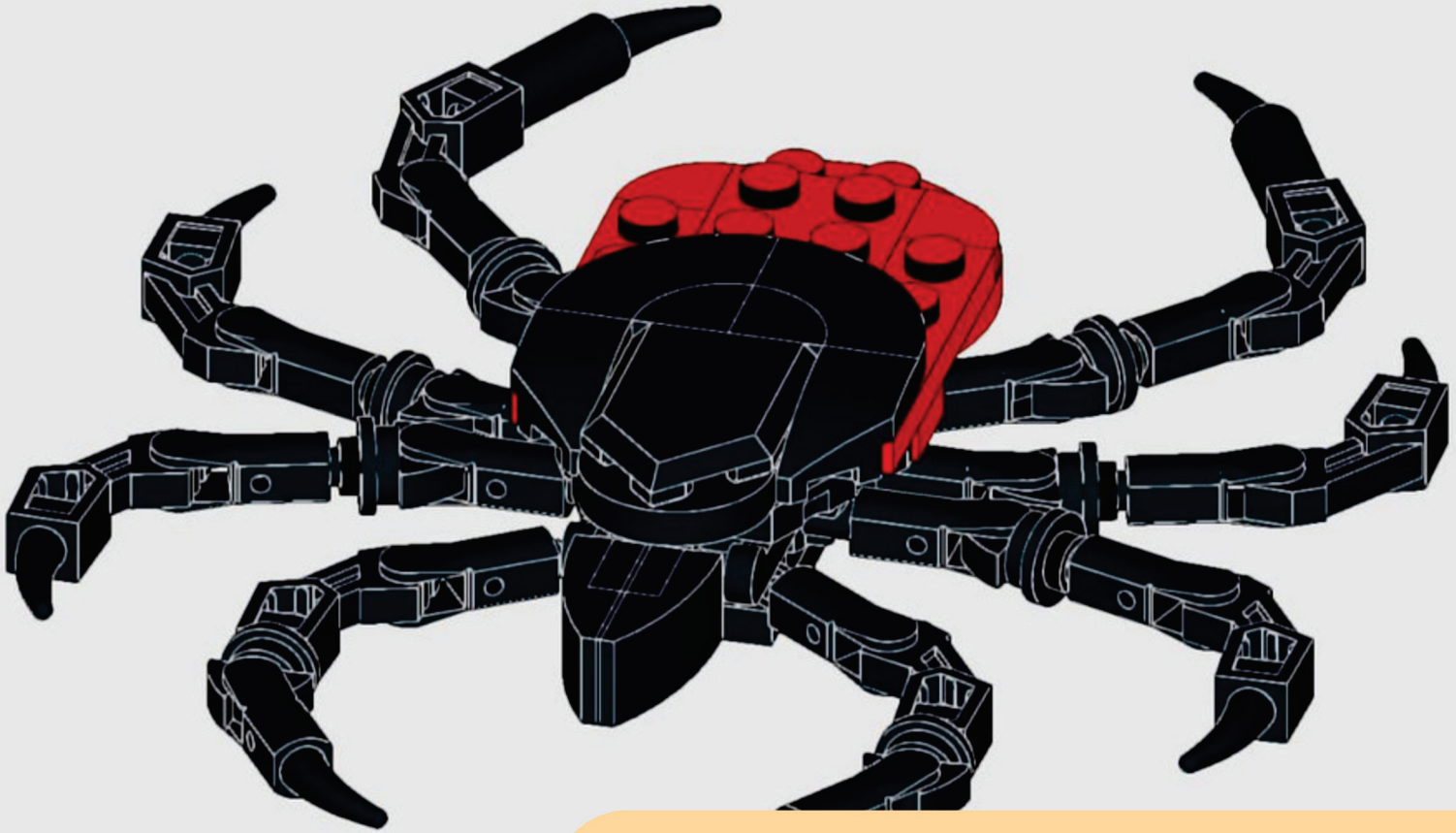
2x



14

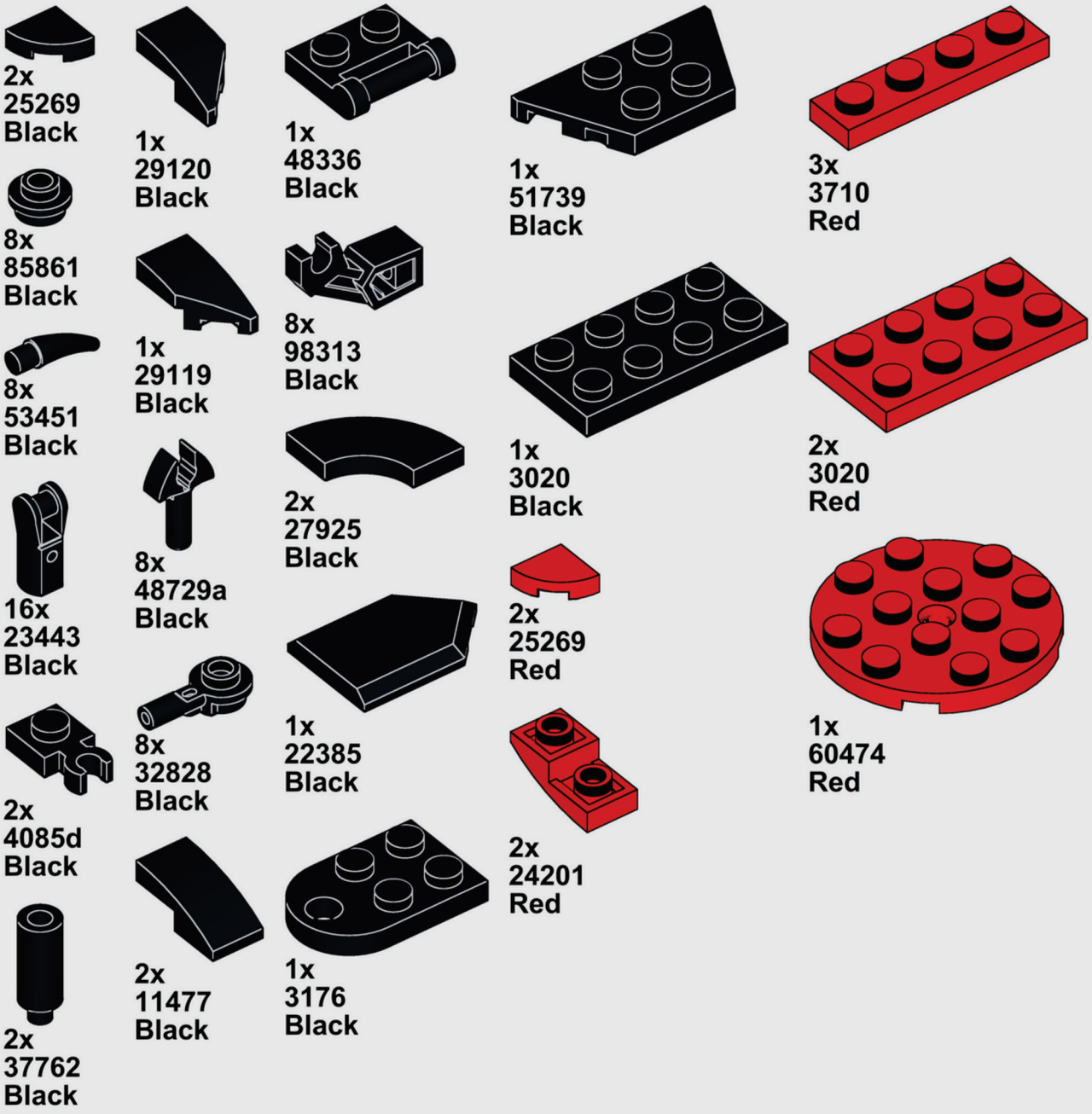


Your female blacklegged tick is complete!



How to spot a female blacklegged tick:

1) Red/orange body
2) Dark circular shield
3) Eight legs


2x
25269
Black
8x
85861
Black
8x
53451
Black
16x
23443
Black
2x
4085d
Black
2x
37762
Black
1x
29120
Black
1x
29119
Black
8x
48729a
Black
8x
32828
Black
2x
11477
Black
1x
48336
Black
8x
98313
Black
2x
27925
Black
1x
22385
Black
1x
3176
Black
1x
51739
Black
1x
3020
Black
2x
25269
Red
2x
24201
Red
3x
3710
Red
2x
3020
Red
1x
60474
Red

The Blacklegged Tick

Designed by: Xia Lee
Illustrated by: Karen Fuenzalida Araya

We would like to thank Adam Shumate, Bailey Donahue, Eliza Lacoursiere, and Teddy Theodoris for their contributions to the design and creation of this kit.



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