



Imagine a creature with a shiny metallic body and huge stunning eyes; that's a horse fly for you! These unique critters, which can be found all over the world, are about an inch long and have a pair of clear, large wings that help them zoom around. Their bodies are colored in different shades of brown and black, and if you look closely, you'll see that they have large, brightly colored eyes that can see in almost all directions. But don't let their good looks fool you, these fellows can be quite a nuisance.



Speaking of being a nuisance, have you ever wondered what horse flies eat? These creatures are not vegetarians, oh no! They feed on blood, particularly from large mammals like cows, horses, and even humans. They use their sharp mouthparts to bite and create a small wound, from which they then suck up the blood. It's not the most pleasant dinner routine, but it's how they survive.

Now that we have an idea of their diet, let's dive into their life cycle. After a female horse fly has had her fill of blood, she lays her eggs on plants near water bodies. When these eggs hatch, the larvae fall into the water where they start their life, feeding on other small insects and organic matter. After several stages of growth, they emerge from the water as adults ready to start the cycle all over again.



You might be thinking, 'how different can these flies be from others?' Well, there are a few things that set horse flies apart. Unlike other flies, they are active during the day, they are larger, and they have a painful bite. Their bite can be quite annoying to humans and animals, but they play an important role in the ecosystem by helping to control other insect populations. So, while they might not be our favorite creatures, horse flies are a fascinating part of our world with their unique life cycle and survival strategies.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do horse flies wings look like?
A. They are white with gray stripes
B. They are solid gray.
C. They are gray with white stripes
D. They are transparent.
- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?
A. They can be smaller, larger, or the same size as other flies depending on the horse fly.
B. They are larger than most other flies.
C. They are the same size as most other flies.
D. They are smaller than most other flies.
- 3) What do horse flies eat?
A. They eat plants and nectar.
B. They eat blood.
C. They eat nuts, seeds, and fruits.
D. They eat other insects.
- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
A. They help fertilize plants.
B. They help to control other insect populations.
C. They help spread seeds.
D. They help pollinate flowers.
- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
A. Leaves and bark
B. Insects and organic matter
C. Seeds and nuts
D. Worms and crickets
- 6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?
A. Shades of green and yellow.
B. Shades of brown and black.
C. Shades of red and orange.
D. Shades of blue and purple.
- 7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs?
A. In animal nests or burrows.
B. On plants near water bodies.
C. On leaves high up in trees.
D. Deep in the soil.
- 8) How do the horse fly larvae start their life?
A. They eat their way out of the leaves where the eggs were laid.
B. They fall into the water from where they hatch.
C. They consume the fruit they were laid on.
D. They dig up from the soil where they were born.
- 9) What is a special about the eyes of a horse flies?
A. They can see in almost all directions.
B. They can look in two different directions at once.
C. They have thousands of tiny eyes for looking everywhere.
D. They are blind and use sound to navigate.
- 10) When are horse flies active?
A. They are active during the night.
B. They are only active during twilight hours.
C. They are active all the time, night and day.
D. They are active during the day.



Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I never cause any problems for humans or animals."
- 12) "I love dry climates."
- 13) "I feed on blood, especially from large mammals like cows and horses."
- 14) "I can't see well because my eyes are so small."
- 15) "I only come out at dusk."
- 16) "I don't like eating blood, I prefer munching on leaves."
- 17) "I lay my eggs on plants near water bodies like rivers and lakes."
- 18) "I am larger than some other types of flies."
- 19) "Using my large eyes, I can see almost everywhere."
- 20) "Once born, we are instantly adult horse flies ready to fly."
- 21) "My favorite meal is a juicy fruit."
- 22) "Our bites are soft and you will barely feel anything."
- 23) "I use my sharp mouthparts to pierce the skin and then I suck up the blood from my victim."
- 24) "As a larva, I live high up in the trees."
- 25) "My bite can be quite bothering to humans and animals."
- 26) "The start of my life is spent in water after I hatch from an egg."
- 27) "As a larva, I feed on other small insects and organic matter."
- 28) "We horse flies are vegetarians and love to munch on leaves and grass."
- 29) "My body is covered in different shades of brown and black."
- 30) "Unlike some other flies, you'll find me buzzing about during the day."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 31) After feeding, female horse flies lay eggs on plants near water bodies.
- 32) Horse flies have a beautiful metallic shine on their body.
- 33) Horse flies bite in order to feed on blood.
- 34) Horse flies, with their large eyes, are scarier than any other insect.
- 35) Horse flies exist all around the world.
- 36) Horse flies, with their painful bites, are the worst kind of flies.
- 37) Horse flies are mostly active during the day.
- 38) The diet of horse flies mainly consists of blood from large mammals.
- 39) The way horse flies survive by feeding on blood is a bit gross.
- 40) Horse flies are big and scary compared to other flies.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 41) Horse fly larvae feed on other small insects and organic matter.
- 42) Horse flies are only found in North America.
- 43) Horse flies are carnivorous and they feed on blood.
- 44) Horse flies eat plants and leaves.
- 45) The eyes of a horse fly can see in most directions.
- 46) Horse flies are nocturnal creatures, being most active during the night.
- 47) Horse flies are smaller than other flies.
- 48) The female horse fly lays her eggs on plants near the desert.
- 49) Horse flies can see in almost all directions.
- 50) Horse flies can be about an inch long.

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.



Horse Flies

Name: _____

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 56) Horse flies can be so annoying!
- 57) Avoid horse flies by staying away from wet areas.
- 58) What happens when a horse fly bites?
- 59) Ouch, horse fly bites really hurt!
- 60) Horse flies are known for their painful bites.
- 61) How big are horse flies?
- 62) Female horse flies need blood to lay their eggs.
- 63) Where do horse flies lay their eggs?
- 64) Horse fly larvae live in water or moist soil.
- 65) Protect yourself from horse fly bites by wearing long sleeves.
- 66) It's amazing how fast horse flies can fly!
- 67) Apply insect repellent to keep horse flies away.



Horse Flies

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____ 51. _____

2. _____ 27. _____ 52. _____

3. _____ 28. _____ 53. _____

4. _____ 29. _____ 54. _____

5. _____ 30. _____ 55. _____

6. _____ 31. _____ 56. _____

7. _____ 32. _____ 57. _____

8. _____ 33. _____ 58. _____

9. _____ 34. _____ 59. _____

10. _____ 35. _____ 60. _____

11. _____ 36. _____ 61. _____

12. _____ 37. _____ 62. _____

13. _____ 38. _____ 63. _____

14. _____ 39. _____ 64. _____

15. _____ 40. _____ 65. _____

16. _____ 41. _____ 66. _____

17. _____ 42. _____ 67. _____

18. _____ 43. _____

19. _____ 44. _____

20. _____ 45. _____

21. _____ 46. _____

22. _____ 47. _____

23. _____ 48. _____

24. _____ 49. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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1.	D	26.	Would	51.	B
2.	B	27.	Would	52.	A
3.	B	28.	Not	53.	D
4.	B	29.	Would	54.	A
5.	B	30.	Would	55.	C
6.	B	31.	fact	56.	exclamatory
7.	B	32.	opinion	57.	imperative
8.	B	33.	fact	58.	interrogative
9.	A	34.	opinion	59.	exclamatory
10.	D	35.	fact	60.	declarative
11.	Not	36.	opinion	61.	interrogative
12.	Not	37.	fact	62.	declarative
13.	Would	38.	fact	63.	interrogative
14.	Not	39.	opinion	64.	declarative
15.	Not	40.	opinion	65.	imperative
16.	Not	41.	true	66.	exclamatory
17.	Would	42.	false	67.	imperative
18.	Would	43.	true		
19.	Would	44.	false		
20.	Not	45.	true		
21.	Not	46.	false		
22.	Not	47.	false		
23.	Would	48.	false		
24.	Not	49.	true		
25.	Would	50.	true		



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- 1) What do horse flies wings look like? (paragraph 1)
A. They are solid gray.
B. They are transparent.
C.
D.
- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies? (paragraph 4)
A. They can be smaller, larger, or the same size as other flies depending on the horse fly.
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C.
D.
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C.
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Horse Flies

Name: _____

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