



Let's dive into the fascinating world of stone flies, shall we? These cool critters aren't much bigger than your thumb and are usually brown or black. They are covered in tiny hairs and have long, thin antennae that they use to explore their surroundings. You can also tell them apart from other bugs by their two sets of wings that fold flat over their bodies.



Remember those long antennae we talked about? They, along with the stone flies' six legs, are very important for helping them live in their favorite places - fast-moving streams and rivers! Stone flies are even happy spending some of their life under water, just like a fish! But don't worry, they also have a terrestrial stage where they get to explore the land too.

Now, just like you and me, these little adventurers need to eat. In their aquatic stage, they munch on things like algae and tiny bits of plants, but when they're all grown up, they switch to a diet of other small insects. This means they help to control the population of other bugs, making them great little helpers for humans. But it's not all about eating - stone flies have been known to play dead to avoid becoming a meal themselves!



Let's circle back to the human helper part, because stone flies are more important to us than you might think. Not only do they control other pest populations, but they also act as indicators for scientists to tell if a river or stream is clean and healthy. If there are lots of stone flies, it's a good sign that the water is clean. So, it turns out that these tiny critters play a big role in our world by helping to maintain balance in nature and keep our waters clean.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do stone flies do to avoid becoming a meal?
A. Release a toxin B. Run away
C. Hide D. Play dead
- 2) Why are stone flies important for scientists studying rivers and streams?
A. They tell if a river or stream has fish
B. They tell scientists the temperature of the water
C. They help scientists measure the speed of the water
D. They indicate if a river or stream is clean and healthy
- 3) Where do stone flies like to live?
A. streams and rivers
B. Mountains and rocks
C. Forests and trees
D. Desert and sand dunes
- 4) What do stone flies eat when they are adults?
A. Small stones
B. Dead leaves
C. Animal blood
D. Other small insects
- 5) What role do stone flies play for humans?
A. They help control the population of other bugs
B. They purify water
C. They help pollinate flowers
D. They help distribute seeds
- 6) What are stone flies covered in?
A. scales
B. hairs
C. stripes
D. dots
- 7) What do stone flies eat when they are under water?
A. Small fish and frogs
B. Other bugs and insects
C. Algae and bits of plants
D. Nuts and berries
- 8) If there are lots of stone flies in a river or stream, what might that indicate?
A. The water is dirty
B. The water is shallow
C. The water is warm
D. The water is clean
- 9) How many legs do stone flies have?
A. Eight legs
B. Four legs
C. Six legs
D. Ten legs
- 10) How many sets of wings do stone flies have?
A. One set of wings
B. No wings
C. Three sets of wings
D. Two sets of wings
- 11) What color are most stone flies?
A. Purple or orange
B. Green or yellow
C. Brown or black
D. Red or blue

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

- 12) "I have no hair."



- 13) "I'm mostly a vegetarian."
- 14) "You can recognize me from my two sets of wings that I neatly fold flat over my body."
- 15) "I love to stand out with vibrant colors!"
- 16) "Scientists don't pay any attention to me."
- 17) "I don't really care for the water. I spend most of my life on land."
- 18) "I can spend part of my life underwater, just like a fish!"
- 19) "I'm useful to humans—I eat other pests and help keep things balanced."
- 20) "I'm not a big creature, only the size of your thumb."
- 21) "I live in hot and dry places."
- 22) "I love to spend all my life underwater, just like a fish."
- 23) "My favourite snack is always algae, no matter my age."
- 24) "Unlike many other insects, I am very comfortable in fast-moving streams and rivers."
- 25) "I am a carnivore and I don't eat plants."
- 26) "During my early life, when I'm living in the water I eat plants."
- 27) "Sometimes I pretend to be dead to avoid getting eaten by predators."
- 28) "I help control the population of other insects by eating them."
- 29) "I love to live in quiet, slow-moving waters."
- 30) "I am covered in tiny hair and have very long, thin antennae that I use to navigate."
- 31) "If you see a lot of me around, that means the water is clean."

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

- 32) Stone flies change their diet from algae and tiny plants to smaller insects as they grow up.
- 33) The fact that stone flies play dead to avoid predators is really cool.
- 34) Stone flies spend a part of their life under water.
- 35) It's really cool how stone flies change their diet as they grow.
- 36) Stone flies have long, thin antennae and two sets of wings.
- 37) Stone flies are even cooler than butterflies because they can live in fast-moving streams.
- 38) Stone flies sometimes play dead to escape being eaten.
- 39) Stone flies have a preference for living in fast-moving streams and rivers.
- 40) Stone flies are cute with their long, thin antennae.
- 41) Stone flies are remarkable as they can live both in water and on land.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 42) Stone flies have two sets of wings.
- 43) Adult stone flies are usually the size of a dollar bill.
- 44) When they are fully grown, stoneflies eat other small insects.
- 45) Stone flies like to live in slow-moving creeks.
- 46) Stone flies can play dead to avoid predators.
- 47) In their aquatic stage, stone flies eat only small insects.
- 48) Stone flies are considered pests by humans.
- 49) If there are no stone flies in a river, it means the water is clean.
- 50) Stoneflies live in fast-moving streams and rivers.
- 51) Stone flies can live underwater.

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



52) Stoneflies aren't pests.

- A. can not
- B. are not
- C. will not
- D. are able

53) They don't harm humans or plants.

- A. do not
- B. did not
- C. does not
- D. will not

54) Stoneflies can't live in polluted water.

- A. can live
- B. should live
- C. will live
- D. cannot

55) It's important to protect their habitats.

- A. It is
- B. It was
- C. It am
- D. It has

56) They're found in rivers and streams.

- A. They am
- B. They were
- C. They are
- D. They is

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

57) Stoneflies are a beloved food source for a variety of birds and fish, it's amazing how nature works!

58) Describe what stone flies eat.

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60) These insects have been around since the Paleozoic era, that's simply astonishing!

61) Stoneflies help keep the water clean by feeding on dead leaves and other plant materials.

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65) Stoneflies live near rivers, streams, and other bodies of water.

66) Observe the behavior of stone flies in their natural habitat.

67) It's great to know that stoneflies are not harmful to us!

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Stone 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. _____ 68. _____

19. _____ 44. _____

20. _____ 45. _____

21. _____ 46. _____

22. _____ 47. _____

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25. _____ 50. _____



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Stone Flies

Name: **Answer Key**

1.	D	26.	Would	51.	true
2.	D	27.	Would	52.	B
3.	A	28.	Would	53.	A
4.	D	29.	Not	54.	D
5.	A	30.	Would	55.	A
6.	B	31.	Would	56.	C
7.	C	32.	fact	57.	exclamatory
8.	D	33.	opinion	58.	imperative
9.	C	34.	fact	59.	interrogative
10.	D	35.	opinion	60.	exclamatory
11.	C	36.	fact	61.	declarative
12.	Not	37.	opinion	62.	interrogative
13.	Not	38.	fact	63.	declarative
14.	Would	39.	fact	64.	interrogative
15.	Not	40.	opinion	65.	declarative
16.	Not	41.	opinion	66.	imperative
17.	Not	42.	true	67.	exclamatory
18.	Would	43.	false	68.	imperative
19.	Would	44.	true		
20.	Would	45.	false		
21.	Not	46.	true		
22.	Not	47.	false		
23.	Not	48.	false		
24.	Would	49.	false		
25.	Not	50.	true		



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12) "I have no hair." (paragraph 1)