



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 gray with white stripes
 - B. They are transparent.
 - C. They are white with gray stripes
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- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?
 - A. They are the same size as most other flies.
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- 3) What do horse flies eat?
 - A. They eat plants and nectar.
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- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
 - A. They help to control other insect populations.
 - B. They help pollinate flowers.
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- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
 - A. Insects and organic matter
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- 6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?
 - A. Shades of green and yellow.
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- 7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs?
 - A. On leaves high up in trees.
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 - A. The can look in two different directions at once.
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- 10) When are horse flies active?
- A. They are active all the time, night and day.
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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or if it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I never cause any problems for humans or animals."
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14) "I can't see well because my eyes are so small."
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17) "I lay my eggs on plants near water bodies like rivers and lakes."
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29) "My body is covered in different shades of brown and black."
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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.
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- 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.
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- 67) Apply insect repellent to keep horse flies away.



Horse Flies

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- 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.

- 51) It's important to wear insect repellent when you're around horse flies.
 A. It was B. It is
 C. It has D. It were
- 52) Horse flies can't fly very far, so they usually stay close to their breeding sites.
 A. cannot B. can able
 C. will not D. do not
- 53) Horse flies don't like the cold and are most active during warm months.
 A. does not B. cannot
 C. did not D. do not
- 54) Horse flies aren't good at night, so they're most active during the day.
 A. are not B. are able
 C. will not D. cannot
- 55) They're often found near swimming pools and beaches, bothering people.
 A. They is B. Them are
 C. They are D. They were

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?



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- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> B </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> A </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> D </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> true </u> | 54. <u> A </u> |
| 5. <u> A </u> | 30. <u> true </u> | 55. <u> C </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> fact </u> | 56. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 7. <u> C </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> | 57. <u> imperative </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> fact </u> | 58. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 9. <u> D </u> | 34. <u> opinion </u> | 59. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 10. <u> C </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> declarative </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> opinion </u> | 61. <u> interrogative </u> |
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