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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 solid gray.
  - C. They are white with gray stripes
  - D. They are transparent.
- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?
  - A. They are larger than most other flies.
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  - C. They eat nuts, seeds, and fruits.
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- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
  - A. They help pollinate flowers.
  - B. They help fertilize plants.
  - C. They help spread seeds.
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- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
  - A. Insects and organic matter
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  - C. Leaves and bark
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- 6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?
  - A. Shades of red and orange.
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  - A. On plants near water bodies.
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  - A. They eat their way out of the leaves where the eggs were laid.
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- 9) What is a special about the eyes of a horse flies?
  - A. They are blind and use sound to navigate.
  - B. They have thousands of tiny eyes for looking everywhere.
  - C. They can see in almost all directions.
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- 10) When are horse flies active?
  - A. They are only active during twilight hours.
  - B. They are active during the day.
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**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."
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- 17) "I lay my eggs on plants near water bodies like rivers and lakes."
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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.
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- 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.
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- 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.**



- 56) Horse flies can be so annoying!
- 57) Avoid horse flies by staying away from wet areas.
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- 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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- 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  
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

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- |                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u>      | 26. <u>Would</u>   | 51. <u>B</u>             |
| 2. <u>A</u>      | 27. <u>Would</u>   | 52. <u>A</u>             |
| 3. <u>D</u>      | 28. <u>Not</u>     | 53. <u>D</u>             |
| 4. <u>D</u>      | 29. <u>Would</u>   | 54. <u>A</u>             |
| 5. <u>A</u>      | 30. <u>Would</u>   | 55. <u>C</u>             |
| 6. <u>B</u>      | 31. <u>fact</u>    | 56. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 7. <u>A</u>      | 32. <u>opinion</u> | 57. <u>imperative</u>    |
| 8. <u>C</u>      | 33. <u>fact</u>    | 58. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 9. <u>C</u>      | 34. <u>opinion</u> | 59. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 10. <u>B</u>     | 35. <u>fact</u>    | 60. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 11. <u>Not</u>   | 36. <u>opinion</u> | 61. <u>interrogative</u> |
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| 25. <u>Would</u> | 50. <u>true</u>    |                          |



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