



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 solid gray.
 - B. They are transparent.
 - C. They are gray with white stripes
 - D. They are white with gray stripes

- 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 other insects.
 - B. They eat blood.
 - C. They eat nuts, seeds, and fruits.
 - D. They eat plants and nectar.

- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
 - A. They help fertilize plants.
 - B. They help pollinate flowers.
 - C. They help to control other insect populations.
 - D. They help spread seeds.

- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
 - A. Seeds and nuts
 - B. Insects and organic matter
 - C. Worms and crickets
 - D. Leaves and bark

- 6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?
 - A. Shades of red and orange.
 - B. Shades of blue and purple.
 - C. Shades of brown and black.
 - D. Shades of green and yellow.

- 7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs?
 - A. Deep in the soil.
 - B. On leaves high up in trees.
 - C. On plants near water bodies.
 - D. In animal nests or burrows.

- 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 dig up from the soil where they were born.
 - D. They consume the fruit they were laid on.

- 9) What is a special about the eyes of a horse flies?
 - A. They have thousands of tiny eyes for looking everywhere.
 - B. They can see in almost all directions.
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11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- 10) When are horse flies active?
- A. They are active during the day. B. They are active during the night.
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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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18) "I am larger than some other types of flies."
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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."
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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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37) Horse flies are mostly active during the day.
38) The diet of horse flies mainly consists of blood from large mammals.
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- 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!
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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. _____ | |
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
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| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> A </u> |
| 3. <u> B </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> D </u> |
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| 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> B </u> | 33. <u> fact </u> | 58. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 9. <u> B </u> | 34. <u> opinion </u> | 59. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 10. <u> A </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> declarative </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> opinion </u> | 61. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> fact </u> | 62. <u> declarative </u> |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> fact </u> | 63. <u> interrogative </u> |
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