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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?
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- 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.
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- 3) What do horse flies eat?
  - A. They eat blood.
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- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
  - A. They help spread seeds.
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- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
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- 6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?
  - A. Shades of blue and purple.
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- 7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs?
  - A. In animal nests or burrows.
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- 8) How do the horse fly larvae start their life?
  - 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. The can look in two different directions at once.
  - B. They have thousands of tiny eyes for looking everywhere.
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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 if it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "I never cause any problems for humans or animals."
- 12) "I love dry climates."
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- 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."
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- 20) "Once born, we are instantly adult horse flies ready to fly."
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- 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."
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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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- 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.
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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.**

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42) Horse flies are only found in North America.

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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.**

51) It's important to wear insect repellent when you're around horse flies.

A. It was

B. It is

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52) Horse flies can't fly very far, so they usually stay close to their breeding sites.

A. cannot

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53) Horse flies don't like the cold and are most active during warm months.

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# Horse Flies

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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- |                                 |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 51. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 52. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 3. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 53. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 4. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 54. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 5. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 55. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 6. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 56. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 7. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 57. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 8. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 58. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 9. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 34. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 59. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 10. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 60. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
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| 16. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 41. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 66. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 17. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 42. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 67. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
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A.  B. They are white with gray stripes  
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- 3) What do horse flies eat? (paragraph 2)  
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