



Dive into the fascinating world of water scorpions, an intriguing creature that may not be as scary as it sounds! These wonderful critters are not really scorpions, but insects that live in water. They have long, slender bodies that can reach up to 3 inches in length and usually a brownish or dark color that helps them blend in with the water and foliage. Also, they have a long 'tail' which is actually a breathing tube that they stick out of the water to get air.



With their unique body design, their lifestyle is just as exciting. These critters live mostly in still, freshwater environments like ponds or marshes, pretty much anywhere in the world except the polar regions. Their diet mainly consists of other small insects, tadpoles and even small fish! They are ambush predators, staying still until their unsuspecting prey comes close enough for them to grab with their front legs.

Now that we know how they live, let's buzz into the life cycle of these aquatic wonders. The life cycle of water scorpions begins with the female laying eggs on underwater plants. When the young, or nymphs, hatch, they look like tiny versions of the adults but without wings. As they grow and molt, they eventually develop wings and become adults, ready to continue the cycle.



So, we've learnt a lot about these water dwellers, but what about their relationship with us and other animals? Well, to humans, they are harmless and can be interesting to observe, but are generally left undisturbed in their natural environment. While they are a predator to smaller aquatic creatures, they themselves can be a tasty meal for birds and frogs. And remember, despite their name and appearance, these are not real scorpions, but a unique kind of water bug with a special breathing tube, making them a truly fascinating part of our natural world.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) How long can a water scorpion's body get?
 - A. Up to a foot
 - B. Up to 5 inches
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- 2) Who eats water scorpions?
 - A. Cats and dogs
 - B. Humans and monkeys
 - C. Birds and frogs
 - D. Lions and tigers

- 3) Where do water scorpions live?
 - A. In ponds or marshes
 - B. In deserts or dry regions
 - C. In oceans or seas
 - D. In tundras or polar regions

- 4) What do water scorpions develop as they grow?
 - A. They grow fins
 - B. They develop wings
 - C. They develop a stinger
 - D. They grow additional legs

- 5) What do young water scorpions look like when they hatch?
 - A. They look like tiny versions of the adults but without wings
 - B. They look like black caterpillars
 - C. They look like tadpoles
 - D. They lack their tail, wings and front arms

- 6) What is the 'tail' of a water scorpion?
 - A. A weapon
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 - C. A breathing tube
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- 7) Which are part of the diet of water scorpions?
 - A. Small insects and tadpoles
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 - D. Fruits and leaves

- 8) What type of predator is a water scorpion?
 - A. A passive predator
 - B. A chase predator
 - C. An ambush predator
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- 9) What makes water scorpions unique?
 - A. They can change colors
 - B. They have a breathing tube
 - C. They glow in the dark
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- 10) Where do water scorpions lay their eggs?
 - A. On underwater plants
 - B. On rocks
 - C. In the sand
 - D. In tree leaves

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

- 11) "I'm actually a real scorpion, despite what anyone says."



- 12) "I love a quiet pond or marsh. Still water is the best for me. That's where you'll find me swimming."
- 13) "When it's time to lay eggs, I choose a spot on the underwater plants. It's a safe nursery for my babies."
- 14) "I'm not a picky eater. Small insects, tadpoles, and yes, even small fish make a tasty meal for me."
- 15) "I might look like a scorpion, but don't worry, I'm just a bug who loves to swim."
- 16) "I live in turbulent water environments."
- 17) "I'm a dangerous creature to humans."
- 18) "We look just like our parents but without the wings when we hatch."
- 19) "I'm quite large and can reach up to 7 inches in length."
- 20) "I don't live in water."
- 21) "See this long tail? No, it's not for stinging. It's my special snorkel! I use it to breathe air while I swim."
- 22) "I lay eggs on dry land."
- 23) "I'm really good at playing 'the waiting game'. I wait perfectly still and when an unsuspecting prey comes close enough, I catch them!"
- 24) "I can grow as long as 3 inches and my color is perfect to match my environment."
- 25) "As an adult, I lose my ability to fly."
- 26) "I'm a carnivore so my meal mostly consists of small bugs and tadpoles."
- 27) "I look like a scorpion but I am not, I may look dangerous but I am not harmful to you."
- 28) "Despite my name, make no mistake, I'm entirely a land creature."
- 29) "I live in the polar regions."

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

- 30) Water scorpions eat other small insects, tadpoles and small fish.
- 31) Water scorpions are awesome because they can eat creatures that are bigger than them.
- 32) Water scorpions live in still, freshwater environments like ponds or marshes.
- 33) Water scorpions look fascinating with their long, slender bodies and unique design.
- 34) Water scorpions can grow up to 3 inches long.
- 35) The way they ambush their prey seems quite thrilling.
- 36) Despite their name, water scorpions are not real scorpions but a type of water bug.
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Determine if the statement is true or false.

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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
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- 43) Water scorpions are actual scorpions that live in water.
- 44) Water scorpions have a long 'tail' which is a breathing tube.
- 45) Water scorpions live only in moving water like rivers.
- 46) When water scorpions hatch from their eggs, they fly away to find food.
- 47) Water scorpions will follow their prey for miles before striking.
- 48) Water scorpions are predator to smaller aquatic creatures.
- 49) Water scorpions can reach up to 3 inches in length.

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

- 50) It's important to remember that water scorpions are harmless to humans.
 - A. it was
 - B. it is
 - C. it has
 - D. it will
- 51) Water scorpions can't breathe underwater without their special breathing tube.
 - A. cannot
 - B. will not
 - C. can
 - D. do not
- 52) Water scorpions don't have a poisonous sting like real scorpions.
 - A. does not
 - B. cannot
 - C. did not
 - D. do not
- 53) You won't find water scorpions in the ocean, only in freshwater habitats.
 - A. will not
 - B. would not
 - C. shall not
 - D. cannot
- 54) They're amazing predators, patiently waiting for their prey.
 - A. there is
 - B. they were
 - C. they are
 - D. there are

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

- 55) The design of water scorpions allows them to blend in with debris at the bottom of ponds, what a great camouflage!
- 56) Water scorpions use their breathing tube to collect air from the water surface.
- 57) What do water scorpions eat?
- 58) Water scorpions can produce a foul-smelling liquid as a defense mechanism.
- 59) Water scorpions are experts at hunting underwater, they are truly fearsome predators!
- 60) Water scorpions can stay motionless for long periods of time, waiting for their prey to pass by.
- 61) How do water scorpions breathe underwater?
- 62) Do water scorpions have any predators?
- 63) Water scorpions can breathe through a long breathing tube, it's such an amazing adaptation!
- 64) What is the lifespan of a water scorpion?



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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> D </u> |
| 3. <u> A </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> A </u> |
| 4. <u> B </u> | 29. <u> false </u> | 54. <u> C </u> |
| 5. <u> A </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> declarative </u> |
| 7. <u> A </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | 58. <u> declarative </u> |
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 - C. Up to 2 inches
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 - A. Cats and dogs
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 - C. Birds and frogs
 - D. None of the above
- 3) Where do water scorpions live? (paragraph 2)
 - A. In ponds or marshes
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 - C. In swamps or bays
 - D. In rivers or streams
- 4) What do water scorpions develop as they grow? (paragraph 3)
 - A. They develop legs
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