



Have you ever seen a spider wearing a red hourglass? Nope, it's not getting ready for a party, it's a black widow spider! These spiders are easy to spot with their shiny, black bodies and the red markings they wear. They are not very big, about 1.5 inches long, but are known to be quite tough. Their name comes from a slightly scary fact - sometimes, the females eat the males after mating!

Speaking of eating, let's find out what these eight-legged creatures munch on. Black widow spiders are like the mini superheroes of the insect world, they catch and eat other insects that we often find annoying, like flies and mosquitoes. They do this by spinning super strong webs, waiting for their dinner to get trapped. Once the prey is stuck, the spider uses its venom to turn the insides of the insect into a liquid and then slurps it up like a smoothie!

Now you're probably wondering, where do these critters hang out? Well, black widow spiders can be found all over the world, but they especially like warmer climates. They prefer to live in dark, secluded places like woodpiles, boxes, or in the corners of garages. They are not very social, and prefer to live alone except when they are mating.



Okay, so we know they're not party animals, but what about us humans? Well, black widow spiders are not naturally aggressive to humans and will only bite if they feel threatened. Their venom can be harmful, but it's very rare for it to cause serious problems. So, remember, if you ever come across a black widow spider, admire its red hourglass from a distance and let it continue its superhero insect hunting!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color is the marking a black widow spider has?
  - A. Blue
  - B. Yellow
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- 2) How do black widow spiders get their name?
  - A. Because they spin strong webs and catch insects.
  - B. Because they have black bodies and red hourglass markings.
  - C. Because they like to live in dark black places.
  - D. Because the female sometimes eat the males.
  
- 3) How do these spiders catch their food?
  - A. By running after their prey
  - B. By waiting for prey to fall in a hole
  - C. Strong webs
  - D. By scavenging the remains of dead animals
  
- 4) How big are black widow spiders?
  - A. About 12 inches (1 foot)
  - B. About an inch and a half
  - C. About 4 inches
  - D. Microscopic
  
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  - A. Tan
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- 6) What do black widow spiders eat?
  - A. Meat
  - B. Fruits
  - C. Insects
  - D. Plants
  
- 7) Where can black widow spiders be found?
  - A. All over the world
  - B. Only in Africa
  - C. Only in cold climates
  - D. Only in deserts
  
- 8) Are black widow spiders naturally aggressive to humans?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  - C. Only males
  - D. Only females
  
- 9) How does a black widow spider eat its prey?
  - A. It chews up the insects with its sharp fangs.
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  - C. It swallows the insects whole.
  - D. It turn the insides of its prey into a liquid and then slurps it up.
  
- 10) What should you do if you come across a black widow spider in the wild?
  - A. Admire it from a distance
  - B. Try to touch it
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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 don't eat insects."
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- 28) "We males never have to worry about females after mating. We live happily."
- 29) "I'm easy to spot in a crowd. I have a shiny black body with a prominent red marking shaped like an hourglass."
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**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 31) Black widow spiders usually live in warm places.
- 32) Black widows slurping their prey like smoothies is gruesome and cool at the same time.
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- 35) Black widow spiders aren't very large, they are less than 2 inches long.
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- 61) The venom of a black widow spider is 15 times more toxic than a rattlesnake's venom, how scary!
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# Black Widow Spider

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1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- |                                     |                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>             |
| 2. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 52. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 3. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 53. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>             |
| 4. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 54. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 5. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 55. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>             |
| 6. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 56. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 7. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 57. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 8. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 33. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 58. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 9. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 34. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 59. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 10. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>     | 35. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 60. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 11. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 36. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 61. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 12. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 37. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 62. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
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| 15. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 40. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> |   |
| 16. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 41. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    |   |
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