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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 solid gray.
  - B. They are white with gray stripes
  - C. They are gray with white stripes
  - D. They are transparent.
  
- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?
  - A. They are smaller than most other flies.
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  - A. They help to control other insect populations.
  - B. They help pollinate flowers.
  - C. They help fertilize plants.
  - D. They help spread seeds.
  
- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
  - A. Worms and crickets
  - B. Leaves and bark
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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. Deep in the soil.
  - B. In animal nests or burrows.
  - C. On plants near water bodies.
  - D. On leaves high up in trees.
  
- 8) How do the horse fly larvae start their life?
  - A. They fall into the water from where they hatch.
  - B. They dig up from the soil where they were born.
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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.
  - D. The can look in two different directions at once.



- 10) When are horse flies active?
- A. They are active during the day.      B. They are active during the night.  
C. They are active all the time, night and      D. They are only active during twilight  
day.      hours.

**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."  
12) "I love dry climates."  
13) "I feed on blood, especially from large mammals like cows and horses."  
14) "I can't see well because my eyes are so small."  
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."  
19) "Using my large eyes, I can see almost everywhere."  
20) "Once born, we are instantly adult horse flies ready to fly."  
21) "My favorite meal is a juicy fruit."  
22) "Our bites are soft and you will barely feel anything."  
23) "I use my sharp mouthparts to pierce the skin and then I suck up the blood from my victim."  
24) "As a larva, I live high up in the trees."  
25) "My bite can be quite bothering to humans and animals."  
26) "The start of my life is spent in water after I hatch from an egg."  
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."  
30) "Unlike some other flies, you'll find me buzzing about during the day."

**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.  
33) Horse flies bite in order to feed on blood.  
34) Horse flies, with their large eyes, are scarier than any other insect.  
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.  
38) The diet of horse flies mainly consists of blood from large mammals.  
39) The way horse flies survive by feeding on blood is a bit gross.





- 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!
- 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. _____ |
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| 13. _____ | 38. _____ | 63. _____ |
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| 15. _____ | 40. _____ | 65. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ | 66. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ | 67. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |           |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |           |
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| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |           |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ |           |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ |           |
| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |           |



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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>D</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 51. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>             |
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| 7. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 57. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 8. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 58. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
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