



Let's dive into the fascinating world of stone flies, shall we? These cool critters aren't much bigger than your thumb and are usually brown or black. They are covered in tiny hairs and have long, thin antennae that they use to explore their surroundings. You can also tell them apart from other bugs by their two sets of wings that fold flat over their bodies.



Remember those long antennae we talked about? They, along with the stone flies' six legs, are very important for helping them live in their favorite places - fast-moving streams and rivers! Stone flies are even happy spending some of their life under water, just like a fish! But don't worry, they also have a terrestrial stage where they get to explore the land too.

Now, just like you and me, these little adventurers need to eat. In their aquatic stage, they munch on things like algae and tiny bits of plants, but when they're all grown up, they switch to a diet of other small insects. This means they help to control the population of other bugs, making them great little helpers for humans. But it's not all about eating - stone flies have been known to play dead to avoid becoming a meal themselves!



Let's circle back to the human helper part, because stone flies are more important to us than you might think. Not only do they control other pest populations, but they also act as indicators for scientists to tell if a river or stream is clean and healthy. If there are lots of stone flies, it's a good sign that the water is clean. So, it turns out that these tiny critters play a big role in our world by helping to maintain balance in nature and keep our waters clean.

**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What do stone flies do to avoid becoming a meal?
  - A. Run away
  - B. Hide
  - C. Release a toxin
  - D. Play dead
- 2) Why are stone flies important for scientists studying rivers and streams?
  - A. They indicate if a river or stream is clean and healthy
  - B. They tell if a river or stream has fish
  - C. They help scientists measure the speed of the water
  - D. They tell scientists the temperature of the water
- 3) Where do stone flies like to live?
  - A. Forests and trees
  - B. Mountains and rocks
  - C. Desert and sand dunes
  - D. streams and rivers
- 4) What do stone flies eat when they are adults?
  - A. Dead leaves
  - B. Animal blood
  - C. Small stones
  - D. Other small insects
- 5) What role do stone flies play for humans?
  - A. They help pollinate flowers
  - B. They purify water
  - C. They help distribute seeds
  - D. They help control the population of other bugs
- 6) What are stone flies covered in?
  - A. stripes
  - B. dots
  - C. scales
  - D. hairs
- 7) What do stone flies eat when they are under water?
  - A. Nuts and berries
  - B. Other bugs and insects
  - C. Small fish and frogs
  - D. Algae and bits of plants
- 8) If there are lots of stone flies in a river or stream, what might that indicate?
  - A. The water is warm
  - B. The water is dirty
  - C. The water is clean
  - D. The water is shallow
- 9) How many legs do stone flies have?
  - A. Four legs
  - B. Six legs
  - C. Ten legs
  - D. Eight legs
- 10) How many sets of wings do stone flies have?
  - A. Two sets of wings
  - B. One set of wings
  - C. No wings
  - D. Three sets of wings
- 11) What color are most stone flies?
  - A. Red or blue
  - B. Brown or black
  - C. Green or yellow
  - D. Purple or orange



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

- 12) "I have no hair."
- 13) "I'm mostly a vegetarian."
- 14) "You can recognize me from my two sets of wings that I neatly fold flat over my body."
- 15) "I love to stand out with vibrant colors!"
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- 17) "I don't really care for the water. I spend most of my life on land."
- 18) "I can spend part of my life underwater, just like a fish!"
- 19) "I'm useful to humans—I eat other pests and help keep things balanced."
- 20) "I'm not a big creature, only the size of your thumb."
- 21) "I live in hot and dry places."
- 22) "I love to spend all my life underwater, just like a fish."
- 23) "My favourite snack is always algae, no matter my age."
- 24) "Unlike many other insects, I am very comfortable in fast-moving streams and rivers."
- 25) "I am a carnivore and I don't eat plants."
- 26) "During my early life, when I'm living in the water I eat plants."
- 27) "Sometimes I pretend to be dead to avoid getting eaten by predators."
- 28) "I help control the population of other insects by eating them."
- 29) "I love to live in quiet, slow-moving waters."
- 30) "I am covered in tiny hair and have very long, thin antennae that I use to navigate."
- 31) "If you see a lot of me around, that means the water is clean."

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

- 32) Stone flies change their diet from algae and tiny plants to smaller insects as they grow up.
- 33) The fact that stone flies play dead to avoid predators is really cool.
- 34) Stone flies spend a part of their life under water.
- 35) It's really cool how stone flies change their diet as they grow.
- 36) Stone flies have long, thin antennae and two sets of wings.
- 37) Stone flies are even cooler than butterflies because they can live in fast-moving streams.
- 38) Stone flies sometimes play dead to escape being eaten.
- 39) Stone flies have a preference for living in fast-moving streams and rivers.
- 40) Stone flies are cute with their long, thin antennae.
- 41) Stone flies are remarkable as they can live both in water and on land.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 42) Stone flies have two sets of wings.
- 43) Adult stone flies are usually the size of a dollar bill.
- 44) When they are fully grown, stoneflies eat other small insects.





68) Look for stone flies when you're near rivers or streams!



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- |                                     |                                       |                                             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |
| 2. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 52. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>             |
| 3. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 53. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 4. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 54. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>             |
| 5. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 55. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 6. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 56. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>             |
| 7. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 57. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 8. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 33. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 58. <u>      <b>imperative</b>      </u>    |
| 9. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 34. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 59. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 10. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>     | 35. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 60. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 11. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>     | 36. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 61. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 12. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 37. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 62. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 13. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 38. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 63. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
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Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do stone flies do to avoid becoming a meal? (paragraph 3)
  - A. Run away
  - B. Hide
  - C.
  - D. Play dead
- 2) Why are stone flies important for scientists studying rivers and streams? (paragraph 4)
  - A. They indicate if a river or stream is clean and healthy
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
- 3) Where do stone flies like to live? (paragraph 2)
  - A. Forests and trees
  - B.
  - C.
  - D. streams and rivers
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  - D. Other small insects
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  - A. They help pollinate flowers
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  - A. stripes
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  - A.
  - B. The water is dirty
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