Imagine a creature with a shiny metallic body and huge stunning eyes; that's a horse fly for you! These unique critters, which can be found all over the world, are about an inch long and have a pair of clear, large wings that help them zoom around. Their bodies are colored in different shades of brown and black, and if you look closely, you'll see that they have large, brightly colored eyes that can see in almost all directions. But don't let their good looks fool you, these fellows can be quite a nuisance.



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 gray with white stripes B. They are white with gray stripes

C. They are solid gray. D. They are transparent.

2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?

A. They are larger than most other flies. B. They are the same size as most other flies.

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3) What do horse flies eat?

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5) What do horse flies larvae eat?

A. Insects and organic matter B. Seeds and nuts

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6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?

A. Shades of green and yellow. B. Shades of brown and black.

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7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs?

A. Deep in the soil. B. On leaves high up in trees.

C. On plants near water bodies. D. In animal nests or burrows.

8) How do the horse fly larvae start their life?

A. They consume the fruit they were laid B. They eat their way out of the leaves where the eggs were laid. on.

D. They dig up from the soil where they C. They fall into the water from where they hatch. were born.

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A. They have thousands of tiny eyes for B. They can see in almost all directions.

looking everywhere.

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- **10)** When are horse flies active?
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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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- **39**) The way horse flies survive by feeding on blood is a bit gross.
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- **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

C. It has

- D. It were
- 52) Horse flies <u>can't</u> fly very far, so they usually stay close to their breeding sites.

A. cannot

B. can able

C. will not

D. do not

- 53) Horse flies <u>don't</u> like the cold and are most active during warm months.
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

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Horse Flies

Name:

- **62)** Female horse flies need blood to lay their eggs.
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	Horse Fli	Name:	
1.	26.	51	
2.	27.	52.	
3.		53.	
4.		54	
5.		55.	

57.

56.

32.

8. 33. 58.

9. 34. 59. 10. 35. 60.

11. 36.

13. 38. 63.

14. 39.

> 40. 65.

16. 41. 66.

17.

18.

19. 44.

20. 45.

21. 46.

22. 47.

23. 48.

24.

50.

7.

12.

15.

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Horse Flies

Name:

Answer Key

1.	D	26.	true	51.	В
2.	A	27.	true	52.	A
3.	A	28.	false	53.	D
4.	D	. 29. <u>.</u>	true	54.	A
5.	A	30.	true	55.	C
6.	В	31.	fact	56.	exclamatory
7.	C	32.	opinion	57.	imperative
8.	C	33.	fact	58.	interrogative
9.	В	. 34.	opinion	59.	exclamatory
10.	A	35.	fact	60.	declarative
11.	false	36.	opinion	61.	interrogative
12.	false	. 37.	fact	62.	declarative
13.	true	38.	fact	63.	interrogative
14.	false	39.	opinion	64.	declarative
15.	false	40.	opinion	65.	imperative
16.	false	41.	true	66.	exclamatory
17.	true	42.	false	67.	imperative
18.	true	43.	true		
19.	true	. 44	false		
20.	false	45.	true		
21.	false	46.	false		
22.	false	. 47	false		
23.	true	48.	false		
24.	false	49.	true		
25.	true	50.	true		



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Use the article to answer the question. 1) What do horse flies wings look like? (paragraph 1) A. They are gray with white stripes C. D. They are transparent. 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies? (paragraph 4) A. They are larger than most other flies. В. C. D. 3) What do horse flies eat? (paragraph 2) A. They eat blood. B. C. D. 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem? (paragraph 4) A. B. They help fertilize plants. C. D. They help to control other insect populations. 5) What do horse flies larvae eat? (paragraph 3) A. Insects and organic matter В. C. D. **6)** What are the colors of a horse fly's body? (paragraph 1) A. Shades of green and yellow. B. Shades of brown and black. C. D. 7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs? (paragraph 3) A. Deep in the soil. B. On leaves high up in trees. C. On plants near water bodies. 8) How do the horse fly larvae start their life? (paragraph 3) B. They eat their way out of the leaves A. where the eggs were laid. C. They fall into the water from where D. they hatch. 9) What is a special about the eyes of a horse flies? (paragraph 1)

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