



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 transparent.
 - D. They are solid gray.
- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?
 - A. They are larger than most other flies.
 - B. They can be smaller, larger, or the same size as other flies depending on the horse fly.
 - C. They are smaller than most other flies.
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- 3) What do horse flies eat?
 - A. They eat other insects.
 - B. They eat blood.
 - C. They eat nuts, seeds, and fruits.
 - D. They eat plants and nectar.
- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
 - A. They help to control other insect populations.
 - B. They help fertilize plants.
 - C. They help pollinate flowers.
 - D. They help spread seeds.
- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
 - A. Leaves and bark
 - B. Insects and organic matter
 - C. Worms and crickets
 - D. Seeds and nuts
- 6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?
 - A. Shades of red and orange.
 - B. Shades of green and yellow.
 - C. Shades of blue and purple.
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- 7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs?
 - A. On plants near water bodies.
 - B. Deep in the soil.
 - C. On leaves high up in trees.
 - D. In animal nests or burrows.
- 8) How do the horse fly larvae start their life?
 - A. They eat their way out of the leaves where the eggs were laid.
 - B. They dig up from the soil where they were born.
 - C. They fall into the water from where they hatch.
 - D. They consume the fruit they were laid on.
- 9) What is a special about the eyes of a horse flies?
 - A. They have thousands of tiny eyes for looking everywhere.
 - B. They are blind and use sound to navigate.
 - C. The can look in two different directions at once.
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- 10) When are horse flies active?
- A. They are active all the time, night and day.
B. They are only active during twilight hours.
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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 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."
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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."
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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.
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35) Horse flies exist all around the world.
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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!
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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
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|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>C</u> | 26. <u>true</u> | 51. <u>B</u> |
| 2. <u>A</u> | 27. <u>true</u> | 52. <u>A</u> |
| 3. <u>B</u> | 28. <u>false</u> | 53. <u>D</u> |
| 4. <u>A</u> | 29. <u>true</u> | 54. <u>A</u> |
| 5. <u>B</u> | 30. <u>true</u> | 55. <u>C</u> |
| 6. <u>D</u> | 31. <u>fact</u> | 56. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 7. <u>A</u> | 32. <u>opinion</u> | 57. <u>imperative</u> |
| 8. <u>C</u> | 33. <u>fact</u> | 58. <u>interrogative</u> |
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| 10. <u>C</u> | 35. <u>fact</u> | 60. <u>declarative</u> |
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