



Dancing in the sunlight, you might catch a glimpse of the tiny, polka-dotted wonder we know as the ladybug. These little creatures are quite the sight, with their bold red or orange shells covered in black spots. They are tiny, round and have six short legs to scurry around with. And if you look very closely, you might even see their tiny black antennas twitching in the breeze.

From that breeze, our spotted friends might flutter off to their homes. Ladybugs are found all around the world and they live in a variety of places including forests, fields, grasslands and even your own backyard. They love to munch on aphids, mealybugs and other small insects, making them a gardener's best friend. Next time you see a ladybug, remember, it could be on a mission to protect your garden from pests!

Speaking of missions, ladybugs have quite the journey from birth to adulthood. Their life cycle is made up of four stages - egg, larva, pupa and adult. The mother ladybug lays her eggs on a leaf, where they hatch into larvae that look like tiny alligators! These larvae then transform into pupae before emerging as the spotted beauties we know and love.

Just like the brave knights of old, these spotted beauties have their own armor. Their bright colors and spots warn predators that they taste bad, which helps keep them safe. Some types of ladybugs even play dead to trick predators! So, while they might be small, ladybugs are brave little creatures that help keep our gardens healthy and our world a bit more colorful.



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

- 1) What color are ladybugs?

A. purple	B. blue
C. green	D. red

- 2) What does a ladybug larva look like?

A. Like little worms	B. Like caterpillars
C. Like tiny alligators	D. Like small ladybugs

- 3) Where would you most likely find ladybugs living?

A. oceans and rivers	B. deserts and caves
C. forests and fields	D. mountaintops

- 4) What is the purpose of a ladybug playing dead?

A. To rest after flying	B. To trick predators
C. To take a nap	D. To communicate with other ladybugs

- 5) Why do ladybugs have bright colors and spots?

A. to blend in with their environment	B. to warn predators
C. to attract mates	D. for camouflage

- 6) How many legs do ladybugs have?

A. six	B. four
C. ten	D. eight

- 7) What do ladybugs eat?

A. aphids, mealybugs and small insects	B. worms and slugs
C. nuts, legumes and seeds	D. leaves, stems and flowers

- 8) How many stages are in a ladybug's life cycle?

A. two	B. six
C. ten	D. four

- 9) What are the stages of a ladybug's life cycle?

A. Baby and adult	B. Grub, cocoon and adult
C. Egg, larva, pupa and adult	D. Egg and baby

- 10) Where does a ladybug lay her eggs?

A. in a nest	B. on a leaf
C. in the air	D. underwater

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

- 11) "I have a bright colored shell! It doesn't just look pretty though, it keeps me safe by warning predators about my bad taste."
- 12) "Gardeners love me because I eat pests that would destroy their plants."



- 13) "I'm small and round with six short legs to skitter across leaves."
- 14) "My mother lays eggs under the ground."
- 15) "From a tiny larva, I become a pupa and then grow into a beautiful adult."
- 16) "I love to eat plants and flowers in the garden."
- 17) "My larvae look like tiny fluffy cats."
- 18) "Sometimes, when I'm in danger, I might play dead to trick my predators."
- 19) "Some people think that we look like mini alligators when we're born. How rude."
- 20) "Did you know my mom laid her eggs on a leaf? That's where I was born."
- 21) "Fields are the last places I'd stay."
- 22) "Small insects, especially aphids, make for my favorite meals."
- 23) "My life only consists of one stage: being an adult!"
- 24) "You can find me all around the globe, not just in forests and fields but in your backyard too."
- 25) "My home is only in the forest, nowhere else."
- 26) I don't have any way to avoid predators. If they see me, I'm out of luck.
- 27) "I use my tiny black antennas to help me sense the world around."

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

- 28) Ladybugs can be found in environments all around the world including forests, fields, and grasslands.
- 29) Many people like ladybugs, but they are actually disgusting.
- 30) Ladybug eggs are laid on a leaf to hatch into larvae.
- 31) It is fascinating that ladybugs play dead to escape from danger.
- 32) Ladybugs are small and round with six short legs.
- 33) The way ladybugs eat pests and keep plants healthy is amazing.
- 34) Ladybugs eat aphids, mealybugs, and other small insects.
- 35) The bright colors and spots on ladybugs serve to deter predators.
- 36) Ladybugs red color with black spots makes them the prettiest insects in the garden.
- 37) The transformation of a ladybug from a tiny egg to a beautiful insect is the most impressive of all bugs.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Ladybugs help protect gardens from pests.
- 39) Ladybugs lay their eggs on a leaf.
- 40) Some types of ladybugs play dead to trick predators.
- 41) Ladybugs have six legs.
- 42) Ladybugs have four legs unlike most insects.
- 43) Aphids often munch on ladybugs.
- 44) Ladybugs are found only in forests.



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| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> A </u> | |
| 24. <u> true </u> | 49. <u> D </u> | |
| 25. <u> false </u> | 50. <u> A </u> | |



12) "Gardeners love me because I eat pests that would destroy their plants." (paragraph 4)