Imagine being so tiny that you could travel on a hair! That's the kind of life our little friend, the flea, lives. These miniature creatures, smaller than a grain of rice, have bodies that are flat side to side, making it easy for them to move through the fur of their hosts. Even though they are tiny, fleas are quite tough, with a hard exoskeleton that helps protect them. You might not see them with your naked eye, but with their dark, reddish-brown color, they're there, hopping around like tiny acrobats.

Remember how we said fleas are acrobats? Well, they've got some other cool tricks up their sleeves, too! Fleas are not picky eaters. They feed on the blood of their hosts, which can be a variety of animals, even including your pet dog or cat. After a good meal, a female flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day! These eggs hatch into



larvae, which then develop into pupae before finally becoming adult fleas, ready to jump on a new host.

From the life cycle of our little friends, you might be wondering what kind of relationship they have with other animals. Well, fleas are considered parasites because they live on other animals and depend on them for food. While this might not be the best deal for the host, for the flea, it's the perfect way to get a steady supply of meals. But be careful, because fleas can sometimes transfer diseases from one animal to another.



So, with all this hopping around and living on different hosts, how do fleas compare to other tiny creatures? Unlike other insects, fleas don't have wings, but they make up for it with their incredible jumping skills. They can jump up to 150 times their own height! That's like a human jumping over a skyscraper. So, even though they are small, fleas are quite fascinating creatures with their unique lifestyle and amazing abilities.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What is the size of a flea?

A. About the size of a pencil eraser B. they are microscopic

C. smaller than a grain of rice D. About the size of a piece of popcorn

2) Which fact about fleas transferring diseases is true?

A. Fleas can transfer diseases from host to host

B. Fleas do not transfer diseases

C. Fleas only transfer diseases to

humans, not animals

D. Only male fleas can transfer diseases

3) What do fleas eat?

A. the blood of their hosts B. cheese and crackers C. insects and worms D. fruits and vegetables

4) How do fleas rely on their hosts?

A. They depend on them for protection B. They depend on them for

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D. They depend on them for reproducing C. They depend on them for food

5) What is special about the fleas body that allow it move through the fur of their hosts?

A. Their bodies can inflate and deflate B. Their bodies have hooks that cut

down hairs

C. Their bodies can dissolve hair that it

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D. Their bodies are flat side to side

6) What is the color of a flea?

A. bright yellow B. dark, reddish-brown

C. green and purple D. orange and black stripes

7) How many eggs can a female flea lay in a day?

A. 1 B. fleas don't lay eggs

C. up to 50 D. 100

8) Do fleas have wings?

A. no fleas have wings B. only female fleas have wings

C. only male fleas have wings D. yes all fleas have wings

9) Are fleas considered to be insects?

A. Yes B. They are a type of mite C. No D. They are a type of spider

10) How high can fleas jump?

Reading

A. up to 150 times their own height B. up to 500 times their own height C. up to 100 times their own height D. up to 10 times their own height

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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) "My body is really soft and delicate."
- **12**) "My life cycle involves only two stages."
- 13) "Even though I'm small, trust me, I'm hard to squish, my exoskeleton is super tough."
- **14)** "I don't like hosts which have fur."
- 15) "I change my host frequently."
- **16**) "I am invisible to the naked eye."
- 17) "I may not have a special diet but I do enjoy every drop of blood meal I get from my host."
- 18) "Did you know? In comparison to my size, I'm one of the world's best jumpers."
- 19) "My body shape lets me move easily through the fur, hair or feathers of my host."
- **20**) "I prefer walking to jumping."
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- 23) "I may be hard to spot, but if you do, you'll notice I have a reddish-brown color."
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- 25) "I move from one host to another frequently, and when I do I might accidentally transfer diseases."
- 26) "You might be surprised to know that I can jump up to 150 times my own height!"
- 27) "When my eggs hatch, they develop into pupae and then eventually become adult fleas just like me."
- **28**) "I love flying in the sky."
- 29) "I'm so small a human might not even see me in their hair."
- **30**) "Unlike my other bug friends, I don't have wings. But that doesn't stop me from moving around."

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

- **31)** A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs in one day.
- 32) Fleas are amazing creatures because of their super jumping skills.
- 33) Fleas feed on blood from various animals.
- 34) It's scary to think that fleas can transfer diseases from one animal to another.
- **35**) Fleas are smaller than a single grain of rice.
- **36**) The fact that fleas can lay up to 50 eggs a day is mind-boggling.
- 37) Fleas can jump 150 times their own height.
- **38**) A hard exoskeleton protects the flea.
- **39**) Fleas are disgusting because they live off the blood of other animals.
- **40**) It's impressive that a creature as tiny as a flea can jump so high.

Determine if the statement is true or false.



- **41**) Fleas can live on a variety of animals.
- **42**) Fleas can jump higher than a skyscraper.
- **43**) A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day.
- **44**) Fleas are roughly the size of a nickel.
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- **47**) Fleas do not transfer diseases.
- **48**) Fleas are able to fly.
- **49**) Fleas are considered parasites.
- 50) A flea can jump up to 150 times its own height.

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 51) Fleas <u>aren't</u> picky eaters they'll feed on a variety of animals.
 - A. are

B. are not

C. will not

- D. can not
- **52)** You won't always see fleas, they're very small and hard to spot.
 - A. will not

B. can not

C. will

- D. do not
- 53) Fleas can't fly, but they're great jumpers.
 - A. can

B. could

C. will not

- D. cannot
- 54) It's important to keep your pets flea-free to protect them from diseases.

A. It is

B. It not

C. It has

- D. They are
- 55) Fleas don't just live on pets, they can also be found in your home.

A. cannot

B. does not

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D. will not

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 56) It's amazing how small fleas are!
- 57) Be careful not to let your pets get fleas.
- **58**) Why do flea bites itch?
- **59**) Fleas have been around for millions of years!
- **60**) Fleas are tiny insects that can jump really far.
- **61)** Can fleas survive without a host?
- **62)** Flea bites itch because they feed on the blood of their hosts.
- **63**) What happens after flea eggs hatch?
- There are over 2,500 different species of fleas.



- **65**) To get rid of fleas, vacuum your house regularly.
- **66)** Wow, fleas can be found all over the world!
- 67) Keep your pets flea-free to protect them.

Determine which choice is the conclusion that can be drawn from the statement.

- **68)** Fleas have been around for millions of years and have been found in ancient amber fossils. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about their history?
 - A. Fleas used to be much larger in the past.
- ecosystem. art D. Fleas only
- C. Fleas are an ancient and resilient part of our world.
- D. Fleas only existed during the time of dinosaurs.

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- **69)** Fleas can multiply very quickly, with one female laying up to 50 eggs per day. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about fleas?
 - A. Flea eggs take many months to hatch.
- B. A few fleas can quickly become an infestation.
- C. Male and female fleas lay eggs.
- D. One flea can lay thousands of eggs in a single day.
- **70)** There are over 2,500 species of fleas, and some prefer specific animals as hosts. What does this tell us about them?
 - A. Fleas only choose the largest animals as hosts.
- B. All fleas are identical and don't have preferences.
- C. Not all fleas are the same, and they can be picky about their hosts.
- D. Fleas can only survive on one type of animal.
- 71) Fleas have strong hind legs that help them jump really far. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about how this ability might help them?
 - A. Fleas jump for fun and exercise.
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 - A. Fleas are slow movers.

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- C. Fleas are highly mobile insects.
- D. Fleas are stationary insects.
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	Fleas	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.
12.	37.	62.
13.	38.	63.
14.	39.	64.
15.	40.	65.
16.	41.	66.
17.	42.	67.
18.	43.	68.
19.	44.	69.
20.	45.	70.
21.	46.	71.

24.

22.

23.

73.

48.

49.

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Name:



Solve each problem.

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Fleas

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Fleas Name: Answer Key

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

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Fleas Name: Answer Key

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Fleas **Answer Kev** Name:

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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

Fleas

Name: Answer Key

1.	C	26.	true	51.	В
2.	A	27.	true	52.	A
3.	A	28.	false	53.	D
4.	C	29.	true	54.	A
5.	D	30.	true	55.	C
6.	B	31.	fact	56.	exclamatory
7.	<u>C</u>	32.	opinion	57. <u> </u>	imperative
8.	<u>A</u>	33.	fact	58.	interrogative
9.	A	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. <u> </u>	imperative
18.	true	43.	true	68.	C
19.	true	44.	false	69.	В
20.	false	45.	true	70.	C
21.	false	46.	false	71.	C
22.	false	47.	false	72.	C
23.	true	48.	false	73.	В
24.	false	49.	true		
25.	true	50.	true		



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What is the size of a flea? (paragraph 1)

A. About the size of a pencil eraser В.

C. smaller than a grain of rice D.

2) Which fact about fleas transferring diseases is true? (paragraph 3)

A. Fleas can transfer diseases from host to host

B. Fleas do not transfer diseases

C. D.

3) What do fleas eat? (paragraph 2)

A. the blood of their hosts B. cheese and crackers

C. D.

4) How do fleas rely on their hosts? (paragraph 3)

A. They depend on them for protection B. They depend on them for transportation

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(paragraph 1)

B. Their bodies have hooks that cut A.

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A. 1 В.

C. up to 50 D.

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C. D.

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A. Yes B. They are a type of mite

C. D.

10) How high can fleas jump? (paragraph 4)

A. up to 150 times their own height В.

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Fleas

Name:

- 11) "My body is really soft and delicate." (paragraph 1)
- 12) "My life cycle involves only two stages." (paragraph 2)