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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 solid gray.
  - C. They are transparent.
  - D. They are white with gray stripes
- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?
  - A. They are larger than most other flies.
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  - C. They eat plants and nectar.
  - D. They eat nuts, seeds, and fruits.
- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
  - A. They help fertilize plants.
  - B. They help pollinate flowers.
  - C. They help to control other insect populations.
  - D. They help spread seeds.
- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
  - A. Insects and organic matter
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  - A. Shades of blue and purple.
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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. In animal nests or burrows.
  - D. On plants near water bodies.
- 8) How do the horse fly larvae start their life?
  - A. They fall into the water from where they hatch.
  - B. They eat their way out of the leaves where the eggs were laid.
  - C. They consume the fruit they were laid on.
  - D. They dig up from the soil where they were born.
- 9) What is a special about the eyes of a horse flies?
  - A. The can look in two different directions at once.
  - B. They can see in almost all directions.
  - C. They have thousands of tiny eyes for looking everywhere.
  - D. They are blind and use sound to navigate.



- 10) When are horse flies active?
- A. They are only active during twilight hours.      B. They are active during the day.
- C. They are active during the night.      D. They are active all the time, night and day.

**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."
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- 17) "I lay my eggs on plants near water bodies like rivers and lakes."
- 18) "I am larger than some other types of flies."
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- 23) "I use my sharp mouthparts to pierce the skin and then I suck up the blood from my victim."
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- 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."
- 30) "Unlike some other flies, you'll find me buzzing about during the day."

**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.
- 33) Horse flies bite in order to feed on blood.
- 34) Horse flies, with their large eyes, are scarier than any other insect.
- 35) Horse flies exist all around the world.
- 36) Horse flies, with their painful bites, are the worst kind of flies.
- 37) Horse flies are mostly active during the day.
- 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.

40) Horse flies are big and scary compared to other flies.

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

41) Horse fly larvae feed on other small insects and organic matter.

42) Horse flies are only found in North America.

43) Horse flies are carnivorous and they feed on blood.

44) Horse flies eat plants and leaves.

45) The eyes of a horse fly can see in most directions.

46) Horse flies are nocturnal creatures, being most active during the night.

47) Horse flies are smaller than other flies.

48) The female horse fly lays her eggs on plants near the desert.

49) Horse flies can see in almost all directions.

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 can't 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 don't like the cold and are most active during warm months.

A. does not

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54) Horse flies aren't good at night, so they're most active during the day.

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55) They're often found near swimming pools and beaches, bothering people.

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

56) Horse flies can be so annoying!

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61) How big are horse flies?



- 62) Female horse flies need blood to lay their eggs.
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- 64) Horse fly larvae live in water or moist soil.
- 65) Protect yourself from horse fly bites by wearing long sleeves.
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- |           |           |           |
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| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
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| 10. _____ | 35. _____ | 60. _____ |
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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>A</u>      | 28. <u>false</u>   | 53. <u>D</u>             |
| 4. <u>C</u>      | 29. <u>true</u>    | 54. <u>A</u>             |
| 5. <u>A</u>      | 30. <u>true</u>    | 55. <u>C</u>             |
| 6. <u>C</u>      | 31. <u>fact</u>    | 56. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 7. <u>D</u>      | 32. <u>opinion</u> | 57. <u>imperative</u>    |
| 8. <u>A</u>      | 33. <u>fact</u>    | 58. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 9. <u>B</u>      | 34. <u>opinion</u> | 59. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 10. <u>B</u>     | 35. <u>fact</u>    | 60. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 11. <u>false</u> | 36. <u>opinion</u> | 61. <u>interrogative</u> |
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A. They are larger than most other flies. B. They are smaller than most other flies.  
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