



In the fascinating world of bugs, there's a cool critter called the assassin bug. This bug is not your average little crawler, it's often dressed in a sharp, shiny armor, and carries a name that might make you think of sneaky spies. Assassin bugs can vary in color, from brown to bright red, and can range in size from 1 to 1.5 inches long. These mysterious bugs have long, thin legs and a unique curved mouthpart they use to catch their dinner.

Speaking of dinner, assassin bugs aren't picky eaters. They snack on a variety of other bugs, from beetles and aphids to caterpillars and even other assassin bugs! To catch their meal, they use their long mouthpart like a sword, stabbing their prey and injecting a special kind of saliva that turns the insides of their victim into a soup. Then, it's dinner time as they suck up the nutritious bug soup.

After getting to know their interesting diet, let's dive into where these bugs call home. Assassin bugs can be found all over the world, from forests and meadows to your very own backyard. However, they prefer to live in warmer climates and are often found hiding under rocks, leaves, or bark waiting for their next meal to pass by. In terms of their life cycle, they start as eggs, then hatch into nymphs, and finally grow into adult assassin bugs.



Now that we've explored their homes and life cycle, let's talk about their relationship with us and other animals. While they may sound scary, assassin bugs are actually helpful to humans because they eat other bugs that can harm our gardens and crops. But be careful, because if threatened, they can give a painful bite as a defense! So, while they might look and sound like something from a spy movie, they're really just another interesting part of our big, wonderful world of bugs.

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

- 1) What color can assassin bugs be?
  - A. Black to white
  - B. Green to yellow
  - C. Brown to red
  - D. Blue to purple
- 2) About how large can assassin bugs grow to?
  - A. They are microscopic
  - B. About 1 foot
  - C. About 6 inches
  - D. An inch and a half
- 3) What is special about assassin bug's saliva?
  - A. It is acidic and can dissolve rocks and stones
  - B. It has a potent odor and is used in defense
  - C. It turns the insides of their victim into a soup
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  - A. They eat bugs that harm our gardens and crops
  - B. They produce honey
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  - C. Give a painful bite
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  - A. Only in cold areas
  - B. All over the world
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- 8) What climates do assassin bugs prefer?
  - A. Desert climates
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  - C. Colder climates
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- 9) Where are you most likely to find assassin bugs in the wild?
  - A. Cities, towns, and villages
  - B. Beaches, lakes, and oceans
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  - A. As adults
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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) "We like the warmth, so we usually make homes in climates that aren't too cold."



- 12) "We generally won't harm humans, but if we feel threatened, we might give a painful bite to defend ourselves."
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- 20) "I'm a total vegetarian; other bugs are my friends, not food."
- 21) "I prefer living in open areas."
- 22) "My special spit can turn my dinner into a nutritious soup."
- 23) "When we're not busy hunting, we usually rest under cool rocks, leaves, or bark."
- 24) "I use my mouth strong teeth to chew my food."
- 25) "I prefer living in colder climates."
- 26) "I've seen a lot in my lifetime, from starting as a tiny egg, growing into a nymph and finally transforming into an adult."

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

- 27) Assassin bugs can be found in various parts of the world including forests and meadows.
- 28) Assassin bugs are the most interesting when they are nymphs.
- 29) Assassin bugs capture their food by stabbing it with their mouthpart and injecting a saliva that liquefies the interior of the prey.
- 30) Assassin bugs are creepy because they inject a special saliva into their prey.
- 31) Assassin bugs have a unique mouthpart which they use to catch their food.
- 32) Seeing an assassin bug in a meadow would be a fascinating sight.
- 33) Assassin bugs begin their lifecycle as eggs, then they grow into nymphs and finally mature into adults.
- 34) Assassin bugs are not particular about their food, they can eat a range of bugs.
- 35) Assassin bugs are the coolest looking bugs because they have a sword-like mouthpart to catch their dinner.
- 36) The way assassin bugs turn the insides of their prey into soup is fascinating.

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

- 37) Assassin bugs pierce their prey and turn their insides into a soup.
- 38) Assassin bugs only eat beetles.
- 39) Assassin bugs can be bright red in color.
- 40) Assassin bugs have short thick legs.



- 41) Assassin bugs prefer to live under rocks, leaves and bark.
- 42) Assassin bugs are harmful to humans and should be avoided at all costs.
- 43) All assassin bugs are 1 inch long.
- 44) Assassin bugs do not bite.
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- 46) Assassin bugs can help humans by eating bugs that might harm crops.

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

- 47) They've got a cool and unique appearance.
  - A. They had
  - B. They have
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- 52) Assassin bugs molt several times as they grow from nymphs to adults.
- 53) It's astonishing how assassin bugs can turn their victims into pure liquid using powerful enzymes!
- 54) Assassin bugs have a sharp beak called a rostrum.
- 55) Where do assassin bugs live?
- 56) Can assassin bugs fly?
- 57) The fact that some species of assassin bugs feed on the blood of vertebrates including humans is creepy yet fascinating!
- 58) Assassin bugs feed on other insects like ants, beetles, and caterpillars.
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- |                                 |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 51. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 52. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 3. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 53. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
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| 5. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 55. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 6. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 56. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 7. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 57. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 8. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 58. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
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| 10. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 60. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 11. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 36. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> |   |
| 12. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 37. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |
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| 17. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 42. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   |   |
| 18. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 43. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   |   |
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| 21. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 46. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |
| 22. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 47. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>       |   |
| 23. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 48. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>       |   |
| 24. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 49. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>       |   |
| 25. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 50. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>       |   |



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