



Crane flies are fascinating insects that you might have seen around your garden or near ponds. They look like giant mosquitoes, but don't worry, they don't bite! In fact, adult crane flies don't eat much at all, and some don't eat anything during their short lives. Their larvae, called 'leatherjackets,' feed on the roots of plants and can sometimes cause damage to lawns and gardens.



These interesting insects can be found all over the world and in various habitats. Crane flies like to live near water sources like rivers, ponds, and marshes because their larvae need a moist environment to grow. Depending on the species, they can also be found in forests, meadows, and even deserts! With over 15,000 different species, crane flies are a diverse group of insects that have adapted to live in many different places.

The life cycle of a crane fly is pretty amazing! It all starts with the female laying her eggs in moist soil or water. Once the eggs hatch, the leatherjacket larvae spend most of their time underground, eating roots and decaying plant matter. After a few months, the larvae form a protective case called a pupa, and finally emerge as adult crane flies ready to start the cycle all over again.



Crane flies play an important role in their ecosystems and have some unique relationships with humans and other insects. While they don't provide any direct benefits to humans, they do help control the population of other insects by serving as food for birds, spiders, and other predators. Crane flies may look like mosquitoes, but they don't bite or transmit diseases, making them harmless to people. Their main defense is their ability to quickly fly away from danger, but if caught, they can also shed their legs to escape and then regrow them later! So, crane flies are not only fascinating insects with their unique appearances and life cycles, but they also play a valuable role in their ecosystems.

Next time you see a crane fly, remember that they're harmless to humans and enjoy observing these interesting creatures!

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

- 1) What is the main defense mechanism of crane flies?
 - A. Their ability to shoot webs
 - B. Their ability to quickly fly away from danger
 - C. Their ability to camouflage
 - D. Their ability to sting

- 2) What do crane flies shed to escape danger?
 - A. Their wings
 - B. Their legs
 - C. Their exoskeleton
 - D. Their antennae

- 3) Where do crane flies lay their eggs?
 - A. In moist soil or water
 - B. In the air
 - C. In trees
 - D. In bird nests

- 4) What is the name for crane fly larvae?
 - A. Caterpillars
 - B. Leatherjackets
 - C. Beetles
 - D. Pupae

- 5) Do crane flies bite?
 - A. No
 - B. Only certain species of crane flies bite
 - C. Yes
 - D. Only female crane flies bite

- 6) Where do crane flies like to live?
 - A. Crane flies like to live in caves
 - B. Crane flies like to live near water sources
 - C. Crane flies like to live in the desert
 - D. Crane flies like to live in trees

- 7) What do crane fly larvae eat?
 - A. Crane fly larvae eat meat
 - B. Crane fly larvae eat other insects
 - C. Crane fly larvae don't eat anything
 - D. Crane fly larvae eat roots and decaying plant matter

- 8) What do crane flies look like?
 - A. They look like giant mosquitoes.
 - B. They look like bees.
 - C. They look like dragonflies.
 - D. They look like small flies.

- 9) Where can crane flies be found?
 - A. They can be found in deserts and glaciers.
 - B. They can only be found in tropical rainforests.
 - C. They can be found in forests, meadows, and even deserts.
 - D. They can only be found in gardens and lawns.

- 10) Do crane flies cause damage to plants?
 - A. They only eat decaying plant matter, so they don't cause any damage.
 - B. They actually help plants grow by providing nutrients to the soil.
 - C. No, crane flies don't cause any damage to plants.
 - D. Yes, their larvae can cause damage to lawns and gardens.



11) What do adult crane flies eat?

- A. Adult crane flies eat plants
- B. Adult crane flies eat garbage
- C. Adult crane flies eat other insects
- D. Adult crane flies don't eat

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

12) "I start my life cycle by laying my eggs high up in tree branches!"

13) "Next time you see one of us, just remember, we are completely harmless."

14) "As babies, we leatherjackets like to stay on the surface and hunt for food."

15) "Only a few hundred of us crane flies exist in the world!"

16) "We love to stay near water bodies. It helps our larvae grow well."

17) "Our young ones, known as 'leatherjackets', spend most of their time underground, eating roots and decaying plants."

18) "I wouldn't be seen anywhere near a forest. We make our homes in the cold Canadian snow."

19) "Me and my larva buddies hate the dirt!"

20) "Our babies, which we call 'leatherjackets', munch on plant roots."

21) "We adults eat so little! In fact, some of us don't eat anything during our short life."

22) "If I get caught by a predator, it's game over! I can't escape at all."

23) "You can spot us anywhere in the world, we're pretty good travellers."

24) "We don't lay eggs. Unlike other insects we give live birth!"

25) "Our life begins with our mom laying her eggs in moist soil or water."

26) "We crane flies love being in super dry areas."

27) "I spend most of my adulthood eating to build up energy for my long life."

28) "We are dangerous to humans and our bites can spread disease."

29) "Did you know we look like huge mosquitoes? But, hey, we don't bite at all!"

30) "We look scary, like mosquitoes, but we never bite or spread diseases."

31) "After spending few months underground, we come out as adult crane flies."

32) "If we get caught, we have a special trick up our sleeve - we shed our legs and then regrow them! Cool, isn't it?"

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

33) Crane flies look like big mosquitoes, but they cannot bite.

34) It's creepy that crane fly larvae live underground and eat plant roots.

35) If a crane fly is caught, it can lose its legs to escape danger and regrow them later.

36) Crane flies, with their long legs and wings, look way more interesting than other flying insects.

37) Crane fly larvae are known as 'leatherjackets' and they feed on plant roots.

38) Crane flies are scary because they look like giant mosquitoes.

39) Crane flies serve as food for other creatures like birds and spiders.

40) The female crane fly lays her eggs in wet soil or water.

41) Crane flies are cool to watch because they fly fast and can even lose legs to escape danger.

42) Crane flies are awesome creatures because they can live almost anywhere in the world.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

43) Caught crane flies can shed their legs to escape danger.

44) The life cycle of a crane fly starts with the female laying her eggs in dry soil.



Crane Flies

Name: _____

- 45) Crane fly larvae are called "leatherjackets".
- 46) Crane flies look like giant butterflies.
- 47) Crane flies can be food for birds, spiders, and other predators.
- 48) Adult crane flies eat a lot during their short lives.
- 49) There are over 20,000 different species of crane flies.
- 50) Crane flies can only be found near water sources.
- 51) Crane flies live near water sources like rivers, ponds, and marshes.
- 52) Crane flies are insects that can be found all over the world.

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

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

- 58) Amazing, there are over 15,000 species of crane flies!
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- 62) Crane flies resemble giant mosquitoes.
- 63) What do crane flies look like?
- 64) Crane flies don't bite or transmit diseases to humans.
- 65) Where can you find crane flies?
- 66) Crane fly eggs hatch into larvae called 'leatherjackets'.
- 67) Remember to be gentle when handling crane flies.
- 68) It's incredible how crane fly larvae can live underground!
- 69) Tell your friends that crane flies don't bite.

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



Crane Flies

Name: _____

70) Female crane flies lay their eggs in moist soil or water. Why do they choose these locations?

- A. Crane flies only lay eggs on dry land.
- B. Crane fly larvae need a moist environment to grow.
- C. Crane flies are attracted to bright sunlight.
- D. Crane flies don't need water to lay eggs.

71) Crane flies can be found in various habitats, including forests, meadows, and even deserts. What does this tell us about them?

- A. Crane flies are adaptable and can live in different environments.
- B. Crane flies cannot survive in harsh conditions.
- C. Crane flies can only survive near water.
- D. Crane flies are limited to one type of habitat.

72) The crane fly's long legs break off easily, but they can still fly without them. What can be deduced from this fact about crane flies?

- A. Crane flies' legs never break.
- B. Crane flies can't fly at all.
- C. Without their legs, crane flies cannot fly.
- D. Crane flies do not need their legs for flight.

73) Crane flies can shed their legs to escape from danger and regrow them later. What does this reveal about their defense mechanisms?

- A. Crane flies use their legs to attack predators.
- B. Crane flies are defenseless against predators.
- C. Crane flies rely on their size to scare predators.
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74) Crane flies look like giant mosquitoes, but they don't bite or spread diseases. What does this mean for people?

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Crane Flies

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____ 51. _____

2. _____ 27. _____ 52. _____

3. _____ 28. _____ 53. _____

4. _____ 29. _____ 54. _____

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6. _____ 31. _____ 56. _____

7. _____ 32. _____ 57. _____

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22. _____ 47. _____ 72. _____

23. _____ 48. _____ 73. _____

24. _____ 49. _____ 74. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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- D. Crane flies are dangerous to humans.



1.	B	26.	Not	51.	true
2.	B	27.	Not	52.	true
3.	A	28.	Not	53.	B
4.	B	29.	Would	54.	A
5.	A	30.	Would	55.	D
6.	B	31.	Would	56.	A
7.	D	32.	Would	57.	C
8.	A	33.	fact	58.	exclamatory
9.	C	34.	opinion	59.	imperative
10.	D	35.	fact	60.	interrogative
11.	D	36.	opinion	61.	exclamatory
12.	Not	37.	fact	62.	declarative
13.	Would	38.	opinion	63.	interrogative
14.	Not	39.	fact	64.	declarative
15.	Not	40.	fact	65.	interrogative
16.	Would	41.	opinion	66.	declarative
17.	Would	42.	opinion	67.	imperative
18.	Not	43.	true	68.	exclamatory
19.	Not	44.	false	69.	imperative
20.	Would	45.	true	70.	B
21.	Would	46.	false	71.	A
22.	Not	47.	true	72.	D
23.	Would	48.	false	73.	D
24.	Not	49.	false	74.	A
25.	Would	50.	false		



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is the main defense mechanism of crane flies? (paragraph 4)
A. Their ability to quickly fly away from danger
B. Their wings
C. Their legs
D. In moist soil or water
- 2) What do crane flies shed to escape danger? (paragraph 4)
A. Their wings
B. Their legs
C. Their ability to quickly fly away from danger
D. In the air
- 3) Where do crane flies lay their eggs? (paragraph 3)
A. In moist soil or water
B. In the air
C. In the water
D. In the soil
- 4) What is the name for crane fly larvae? (paragraph 3)
A. Caterpillars
B. Leatherjackets
C. Maggots
D. Worms
- 5) Do crane flies bite? (paragraph 4)
A. No
B. Only certain species of crane flies bite
C. Yes
D. Some species bite
- 6) Where do crane flies like to live? (paragraph 2)
A. Crane flies like to live in caves
B. Crane flies like to live near water sources
C. Crane flies like to live in forests
D. Crane flies like to live in deserts
- 7) What do crane fly larvae eat? (paragraph 3)
A. Crane fly larvae eat meat
B. Crane fly larvae eat roots and decaying plant matter
C. Crane fly larvae eat leaves
D. Crane fly larvae eat roots and decaying plant matter
- 8) What do crane flies look like? (paragraph 1)
A. They look like giant mosquitoes.
B. They look like small flies.
C. They look like butterflies.
D. They look like bees.
- 9) Where can crane flies be found? (paragraph 2)
A. They can be found in deserts and glaciers.
B. They can be found in forests, meadows, and even deserts.
C. They can be found in deserts and forests.
D. They can be found in forests and meadows.
- 10) Do crane flies cause damage to plants? (paragraph 1)
A. Yes, their larvae cause damage to lawns and gardens.
B. They actually help plants grow by providing nutrients to the soil.
C. They do not cause damage to plants.
D. No, they do not cause damage to plants.



Crane Flies

Name: _____

11) What do adult crane flies eat? (paragraph 1)

- A. Adult crane flies eat plants
- B. Adult crane flies eat garbage
- C.
- D. Adult crane flies don't eat

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

12) "I start my life cycle by laying my eggs high up in tree branches!" (paragraph 3)