



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 do not transfer diseases
  - B. Fleas can transfer diseases from host to host
  - C. Fleas only transfer diseases to humans, not animals
  - D. Only male fleas can transfer diseases
  
- 3) What do fleas eat?
  - A. fruits and vegetables
  - B. insects and worms
  - C. the blood of their hosts
  - D. cheese and crackers
  
- 4) How do fleas rely on their hosts?
  - A. They depend on them for transportation
  - B. They depend on them for food
  - C. They depend on them for protection
  - D. They depend on them for reproducing
  
- 5) What is special about the fleas body that allow it move through the fur of their hosts?
  - A. Their bodies are flat side to side
  - B. Their bodies can inflate and deflate
  - C. Their bodies can dissolve hair that it touches
  - D. Their bodies have hooks that cut down hairs
  
- 6) What is the color of a flea?
  - A. bright yellow
  - B. green and purple
  - C. dark, reddish-brown
  - D. orange and black stripes
  
- 7) How many eggs can a female flea lay in a day?
  - A. 100
  - B. fleas don't lay eggs
  - C. up to 50
  - D. 1
  
- 8) Do fleas have wings?
  - A. yes all fleas have wings
  - B. only male fleas have wings
  - C. no fleas have wings
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- 9) Are fleas considered to be insects?
  - A. They are a type of spider
  - B. Yes
  - C. No
  - D. They are a type of mite
  
- 10) How high can fleas jump?
  - A. up to 100 times their own height
  - B. up to 500 times their own height
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  - D. up to 150 times their own height

**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."
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- 18) "Did you know? In comparison to my size, I'm one of the world's best jumpers."
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- 24) "I have a peaceful relationship with my host."
- 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.





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.
- B. Fleas are a recent addition to the ecosystem.
- C. Fleas are an ancient and resilient part of our world.
- D. Fleas only existed during the time of dinosaurs.

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.
- B. Fleas use their jumping skills to escape predators.
- C. Jumping helps fleas move easily from one host to another.
- D. Jumping helps fleas find food on the ground.

72) Fleas can jump up to 100 times their body length. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about their mobility?

- A. Fleas are slow movers.
- B. Fleas are unable to walk and can only jump.
- C. Fleas are highly mobile insects.
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73) Some fleas are known to carry diseases, such as the Bubonic Plague or 'Black Death' that killed millions many years ago. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about fleas?

- A. Only the Bubonic Plague is transmitted by fleas.
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- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 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. _____ |
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- |                                     |                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>             |
| 2. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 52. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 3. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 53. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>             |
| 4. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 54. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 5. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 55. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>             |
| 6. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 56. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 7. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 57. <u>      <b>imperative</b>      </u>    |
| 8. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 33. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 58. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
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