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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 transparent.
  - B. They are solid gray.
  - C. They are gray with white stripes
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- 2) How big are horse flies compared to other flies?
  - A. They can be smaller, larger, or the same size as other flies depending on the horse fly.
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- 3) What do horse flies eat?
  - A. They eat nuts, seeds, and fruits.
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- 4) What is the role of horse flies in the ecosystem?
  - A. They help pollinate flowers.
  - B. They help to control other insect populations.
  - C. They help spread seeds.
  - D. They help fertilize plants.
  
- 5) What do horse flies larvae eat?
  - A. Leaves and bark
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- 6) What are the colors of a horse fly's body?
  - A. Shades of blue and purple.
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- 7) Where does a female horse fly lay her eggs?
  - A. In animal nests or burrows.
  - B. On leaves high up in trees.
  - C. Deep in the soil.
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  - A. They eat their way out of the leaves where the eggs were laid.
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  - C. They dig up from the soil where they were born.
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- 9) What is a special about the eyes of a horse flies?
  - A. They have thousands of tiny eyes for looking everywhere.
  - B. They are blind and use sound to navigate.
  - C. The can look in two different directions at once.
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- 10) When are horse flies active?
- A. They are active all the time, night and day.  
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**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or if it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "I never cause any problems for humans or animals."  
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- 62) Female horse flies need blood to lay their eggs.
- 63) Where do horse flies lay their eggs?
- 64) Horse fly larvae live in water or moist soil.
- 65) Protect yourself from horse fly bites by wearing long sleeves.
- 66) It's amazing how fast horse flies can fly!
- 67) Apply insect repellent to keep horse flies away.



# Horse Flies

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- |                                 |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 51. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 52. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 3. <u>    <b>B</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>B</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>D</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 57. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 8. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 58. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
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| 10. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 60. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 11. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 36. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 61. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
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| 14. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 39. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 64. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 15. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 40. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 65. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
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| 25. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 50. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |



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