



Imagine a creature so small, you can barely see it with your naked eye. This is the world of lice, tiny insects that make their home in the fur or hair of various animals, including humans. They have six legs, each tipped with a claw, which they use to cling to hair or fur. Most lice are about the size of a sesame seed, so you can imagine how tiny they are!

Now, you might be wondering where these super small critters live and what they eat. Lice are found all over the world, living on the bodies of their hosts. What they eat depends on their species - some feed on blood, while others prefer skin and hair debris. They can't fly or jump, so they move around by crawling.

Speaking of crawling, let's talk about the life cycle of these little crawlers. A louse begins life as a nit (egg) that's glued to a hair or fur. In about a week, the nit hatches into a nymph (a young louse), which grows into an adult louse in another week. Adult lice can live for about a month, laying several eggs a day during their lifetime.

So, we know lice are tiny, crawl around, and have a pretty quick life cycle, but what's their relationship with us humans and other animals? Well, lice are mostly known for being pests. They can cause itchiness and discomfort, and in large numbers, they can even cause anemia in their host. But here's a fun fact: Lice are specific to their hosts, which means human lice won't live on pets, and vice versa!



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

- 1) How many legs does a louse have?
 - A. two
 - B. six
 - C. four
 - D. eight
- 2) Where would you most likely find lice making their home?
 - A. Under the sand at the beach
 - B. In fur or hair
 - C. In rivers
 - D. High up in trees
- 3) What is the size of a lice?
 - A. the size of a sesame seed
 - B. the size of a pack of gum
 - C. about 8 inches
 - D. the size of a watermelon
- 4) Can human lice live on pets?
 - A. No
 - B. Yes
 - C. Only on dogs
 - D. Only on cats
- 5) Lice in large numbers can cause _____ in their hosts.
 - A. blindness
 - B. anemia
 - C. gingivitis
 - D. hearing loss
- 6) What part do lice use to cling to hair or fur?
 - A. their sharp teeth
 - B. their abdomen pincher
 - C. claws on their legs
 - D. their sticky body
- 7) How long does it take for a nit to hatch into a nymph?
 - A. about a week
 - B. about a year
 - C. about a day
 - D. about a month
- 8) How long can an adult louse live?
 - A. about a week
 - B. about a day
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 - D. about a year
- 9) What do lice not feed on?
 - A. Blood
 - B. Skin
 - C. Hair debris
 - D. Tree bark
- 10) What are lice mostly known for?
 - A. being cute
 - B. being helpful
 - C. being friendly
 - D. being pests

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

- 11) "We lice are huge, almost the size of an apple!"
- 12) "I just love to fly around and soar in the sky!"
- 13) "Can you believe, we can survive pretty much anywhere in the world."



- 14) I use my eight long legs to crawl around.
- 15) "I enjoy hopping from one place to another!"
- 16) "I can eat anything, from fruits to meat."
- 17) "I can't fly or jump, so I have to crawl to get around."
- 18) "We have a quick life cycle. We go from egg to adult in only two weeks."
- 19) "I use my six legs, each with a claw, to strongly hold onto hair and fur."
- 20) "My life span is about a year."
- 21) "I eat grass and leaves."
- 22) "We lice are friends of humans, we never cause any harm."
- 23) "Some of us feast on skin and hair bits, while others prefer a meal of blood."
- 24) "We lice can only hop or fly."
- 25) "As an adult, I can live for about a month and I will lay several eggs every day."
- 26) "My life began as an egg, then I transform into a nymph, and finally into an adult louse."
- 27) "I started my life as a nit (which is a little egg), glued to a hair strand."
- 28) "We don't lay eggs, we give birth to live young ones."
- 29) "You might find it hard to see me, I'm so tiny, about as small as a sesame seed."
- 30) "Did you know, if there's too many of us, we can cause anemia in our host."

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

- 31) Lice cannot fly or jump, but they can crawl to get around.
- 32) It's pretty neat how lice have claws to cling on to hair.
- 33) Lice are found globally, making their homes on the bodies of various animals and humans.
- 34) Lice and fleas are the two most disgusting bugs.
- 35) Lice possess six legs, equipped with claws that help them cling onto hair or fur.
- 36) The fact that lice are specific to their hosts is an interesting adaptation.
- 37) Human lice won't survive on pets, and vice versa.
- 38) The diet of lice may consist of blood, or skin and hair debris, depending on the species.
- 39) Lice are gross and creepy.
- 40) Lice are fascinating because of their quick life cycle.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 41) Lice are tiny insects that are so small you can barely see them with your naked eye.
- 42) Baby lice take several years to grow into adults.
- 43) Adult lice can live for about a month.
- 44) Lice have eight legs just like a spider.
- 45) The life cycle of a louse begins as an egg that's glued to a hair or fur.
- 46) Lice are only found in North America.
- 47) Lice can only fly for short distances.



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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 31. _____ | 56. _____ |
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| 9. _____ | 34. _____ | 59. _____ |
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> B </u> |
| 2. <u> B </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> A </u> |
| 3. <u> A </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> D </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> true </u> | 54. <u> A </u> |
| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> true </u> | 55. <u> C </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> fact </u> | 56. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 7. <u> A </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> | 57. <u> imperative </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> fact </u> | 58. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 9. <u> D </u> | 34. <u> opinion </u> | 59. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 10. <u> D </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> declarative </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> opinion </u> | 61. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> fact </u> | 62. <u> declarative </u> |
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| 19. <u> true </u> | 44. <u> false </u> | |
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12) "I just love to fly around and soar in the sky!" (paragraph 2)