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Having a home that's cozy and full of food sounds great, right? Well, that's exactly what our homes are for dust mites! They love to hang out in our beds, carpets, and furniture, feasting on dead skin flakes that humans shed every day. It might sound gross, but for dust mites, it's a never-ending buffet.

After feasting on our dead skin, these micro-critters go through a life cycle just like any other animal. They start as eggs, then become larvae, then nymphs, and finally grow into adult dust mites. This whole process takes about a month, and adult mites can live for up to three months. That's a lot of time to munch on skin flakes!



Now, you might be wondering what dust mites have to do with humans, aside from living in our homes and eating our skin flakes. Well, while they're not harmful, some people can be allergic to them, or more specifically, their droppings and dead bodies. This can cause sneezing, itchy eyes, or a runny nose. So, while they might seem small and insignificant, dust mites play a big role in our daily lives and remind us of the diverse, fascinating world that exists even in places we can't see.

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

- 1) What is the size of dust mites?
 - A. about the size of a mouse
 - B. so small, you'd need a microscope to see them
 - C. as big as a coin
 - D. slightly larger than a human
- 2) What can dust mite allergies cause?
 - A. paralysis and blindness
 - B. dizziness and fatigue
 - C. sneezing, itchy eyes, or a runny nose
 - D. headache and stomachache
- 3) How many legs do dust mites have?
 - A. eight
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- 4) What is the average lifespan of an adult dust mite?
 - A. one week
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- 5) What do dust mites feast on?
 - A. cooked meat and vegetables
 - B. dead skin flakes
 - C. chocolate and candy
 - D. fresh fruits and vegetables
- 6) What type of creatures are dust mites related to?
 - A. bees
 - B. ants
 - C. butterflies
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- 7) Are dust mites harmful to most people?
 - A. no
 - B. only to children
 - C. only to adults
 - D. yes
- 8) Where do dust mites like to hang out?
 - A. beds, carpets, and furniture
 - B. garages and basements
 - C. kitchens and bathrooms
 - D. playgrounds and parks
- 9) What can dust mites dropping cause in some people?
 - A. Allergies
 - B. Vomiting
 - C. Anemia
 - D. Blindness
- 10) How long does it take for dust mites to go through their life cycle?
 - A. a few days
 - B. less than a week
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 - D. about a month

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

- 11) "Believe it or not, I start my life as an egg."
- 12) "It only takes about a month for me to go from a nymph to an adult."



- 13) "I'm so tiny that you need a super powerful microscope to see me."
- 14) "We're definitely harmful to humans."
- 15) "You know what's on my menu? Your dead skin flakes. Yummy!"
- 16) "We prefer to stay away from humans."
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- 18) "I got a lifespan of three months. That's a lot of time to snack on your skin flakes!"
- 19) "When I drop stuff or pass away, some humans begin to sneeze or have itchy eyes."
- 20) "Just like a butterfly, I go through different stages. I start as an egg, then I become a larva, then a nymph, and finally an adult."
- 21) "I prefer to live outside, away from human dwellings."
- 22) "I love snuggling up in the warm spots of your home, especially the bed and carpets."
- 23) "I can live for over a year!"
- 24) "I promise, I don't bite! I'm completely harmless to most of you humans."
- 25) "I typically prefer to live on hard surfaces without upholstery."
- 26) "We can't stand human skin flakes."
- 27) "Just like the spiders you see outside, I also have eight legs."

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

- 28) An adult dust mite can live up to three months.
- 29) It is interesting that dust mites are part of the arachnid family, just like spiders.
- 30) Humans shed dead skin which dust mites eat.
- 31) The allergic reaction caused by dust mite droppings is really annoying.
- 32) Dust mites are so tiny that you need a microscope to see them.
- 33) You should try to avoid places where dust mites live.
- 34) Some people can be allergic to dust mites.
- 35) Dust mites have eight legs, same as spiders.
- 36) It's not fair that some people are allergic to dust mites.
- 37) Dust mites are gross because they eat our dead skin flakes.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Adult dust mites can live for up to three months.
- 39) Our homes are not suitable for dust mites.
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- 42) Dust mites feed on dead skin flakes that humans shed.
- 43) The life cycle of dust mites from eggs to adults only takes a week.
- 44) Dust mites have 6 legs and eight eyes, just like a spider.
- 45) Dust mites never cause harm to humans.
- 46) Some people are allergic to dust mites' droppings and dead bodies.



- 65) Dust mites thrive in warm, humid environments. What conclusion can be drawn based on this information?
- A. Dust mites prefer dry and cold climates. B. Reducing humidity and warmth in the house may reduce dust mites.
- C. All warm, humid places are infested with dust mites. D. Dust mites can survive in freezing temperatures.
- 66) Dust mites are too small to be seen without a microscope. What conclusion can be drawn from this statement?
- A. Dust mites are extremely small organisms. B. Dust mites can only live in microscopic environments.
- C. Dust mites are the only mites that can't be seen with the naked eye. D. Dust mites are the smallest organisms on Earth.
- 67) Dust mites are tiny creatures that commonly live in house dust. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about where dust mites live?
- A. Dust mites are found primarily in water. B. Dust mites live on the human body.
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- 68) Most people aren't allergic to dust mites, but dust mites can cause allergic reactions in some people. What conclusion can be drawn based on this statement?
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Dust Mites

Name: _____

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> C </u> |
| 3. <u> A </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 4. <u> C </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> | 54. <u> imperative </u> |
| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> interrogative </u> |
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