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With their unique body design, their lifestyle is just as exciting. These critters live mostly in still, freshwater environments like ponds or marshes, pretty much anywhere in the world except the polar regions. Their diet mainly consists of other small insects, tadpoles and even small fish! They are ambush predators, staying still until their unsuspecting prey comes close enough for them to grab with their front legs.

Now that we know how they live, let's buzz into the life cycle of these aquatic wonders. The life cycle of water scorpions begins with the female laying eggs on underwater plants. When the young, or nymphs, hatch, they look like tiny versions of the adults but without wings. As they grow and molt, they eventually develop wings and become adults, ready to continue the cycle.



So, we've learnt a lot about these water dwellers, but what about their relationship with us and other animals? Well, to humans, they are harmless and can be interesting to observe, but are generally left undisturbed in their natural environment. While they are a predator to smaller aquatic creatures, they themselves can be a tasty meal for birds and frogs. And remember, despite their name and appearance, these are not real scorpions, but a unique kind of water bug with a special breathing tube, making them a truly fascinating part of our natural world.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

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- 19) "I'm quite large and can reach up to 7 inches in length."
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**Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.**





# Water Scorpions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_ 36. \_\_\_\_\_ 61. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_ 37. \_\_\_\_\_ 62. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_ 38. \_\_\_\_\_ 63. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_ 39. \_\_\_\_\_ 64. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_ 40. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_ 41. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_ 42. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_ 43. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_ 44. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_ 45. \_\_\_\_\_
21. \_\_\_\_\_ 46. \_\_\_\_\_
22. \_\_\_\_\_ 47. \_\_\_\_\_
23. \_\_\_\_\_ 48. \_\_\_\_\_
24. \_\_\_\_\_ 49. \_\_\_\_\_
25. \_\_\_\_\_ 50. \_\_\_\_\_



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



- 50) It's important to remember that water scorpions are harmless to humans.
  - A. it was
  - B. it is
  - C. it has
  - D. it will
- 51) Water scorpions can't breathe underwater without their special breathing tube.
  - A. cannot
  - B. will not
  - C. can
  - D. do not
- 52) Water scorpions don't have a poisonous sting like real scorpions.
  - A. does not
  - B. cannot
  - C. did not
  - D. do not
- 53) You won't find water scorpions in the ocean, only in freshwater habitats.
  - A. will not
  - B. would not
  - C. shall not
  - D. cannot
- 54) They're amazing predators, patiently waiting for their prey.
  - A. there is
  - B. they were
  - C. they are
  - D. there are

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

- 55) The design of water scorpions allows them to blend in with debris at the bottom of ponds, what a great camouflage!
- 56) Water scorpions use their breathing tube to collect air from the water surface.
- 57) What do water scorpions eat?
- 58) Water scorpions can produce a foul-smelling liquid as a defense mechanism.
- 59) Water scorpions are experts at hunting underwater, they are truly fearsome predators!
- 60) Water scorpions can stay motionless for long periods of time, waiting for their prey to pass by.
- 61) How do water scorpions breathe underwater?
- 62) Do water scorpions have any predators?
- 63) Water scorpions can breathe through a long breathing tube, it's such an amazing adaptation!
- 64) What is the lifespan of a water scorpion?



# Water Scorpions

Name: **Answer Key**

- |     |                             |     |                               |     |                                     |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1.  | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 26. | <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u>   | 51. | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 2.  | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 27. | <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u>   | 52. | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 3.  | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>     | 28. | <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>     | 53. | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 4.  | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 29. | <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>     | 54. | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 5.  | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>     | 30. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 55. | <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 6.  | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 31. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 56. | <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
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