



Crane flies are fascinating insects that you might have seen around your garden or near ponds. They look like giant mosquitoes, but don't worry, they don't bite! In fact, adult crane flies don't eat much at all, and some don't eat anything during their short lives. Their larvae, called 'leatherjackets,' feed on the roots of plants and can sometimes cause damage to lawns and gardens.



These interesting insects can be found all over the world and in various habitats. Crane flies like to live near water sources like rivers, ponds, and marshes because their larvae need a moist environment to grow. Depending on the species, they can also be found in forests, meadows, and even deserts! With over 15,000 different species, crane flies are a diverse group of insects that have adapted to live in many different places.

The life cycle of a crane fly is pretty amazing! It all starts with the female laying her eggs in moist soil or water. Once the eggs hatch, the leatherjacket larvae spend most of their time underground, eating roots and decaying plant matter. After a few months, the larvae form a protective case called a pupa, and finally emerge as adult crane flies ready to start the cycle all over again.



Crane flies play an important role in their ecosystems and have some unique relationships with humans and other insects. While they don't provide any direct benefits to humans, they do help control the population of other insects by serving as food for birds, spiders, and other predators. Crane flies may look like mosquitoes, but they don't bite or transmit diseases, making them harmless to people. Their main defense is their ability to quickly fly away from danger, but if caught, they can also shed their legs to escape and then regrow them later! So, crane flies are not only fascinating insects with their unique appearances and life cycles, but they also play a valuable role in their ecosystems. Next time you see a crane fly, remember that they're harmless to humans and enjoy observing these interesting creatures!

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

- 1) What is the main defense mechanism of crane flies?
  - A. Their ability to quickly fly away from danger
  - B. Their ability to camouflage
  - C. Their ability to shoot webs
  - D. Their ability to sting
- 2) What do crane flies shed to escape danger?
  - A. Their wings
  - B. Their exoskeleton
  - C. Their legs
  - D. Their antennae
- 3) Where do crane flies lay their eggs?
  - A. In bird nests
  - B. In moist soil or water
  - C. In trees
  - D. In the air
- 4) What is the name for crane fly larvae?
  - A. Pupae
  - B. Beetles
  - C. Caterpillars
  - D. Leatherjackets
- 5) Do crane flies bite?
  - A. No
  - B. Only certain species of crane flies bite
  - C. Only female crane flies bite
  - D. Yes
- 6) Where do crane flies like to live?
  - A. Crane flies like to live near water sources
  - B. Crane flies like to live in trees
  - C. Crane flies like to live in the desert
  - D. Crane flies like to live in caves
- 7) What do crane fly larvae eat?
  - A. Crane fly larvae eat roots and decaying plant matter
  - B. Crane fly larvae don't eat anything
  - C. Crane fly larvae eat meat
  - D. Crane fly larvae eat other insects
- 8) What do crane flies look like?
  - A. They look like small flies.
  - B. They look like giant mosquitoes.
  - C. They look like bees.
  - D. They look like dragonflies.
- 9) Where can crane flies be found?
  - A. They can be found in forests, meadows, and even deserts.
  - B. They can only be found in gardens and lawns.
  - C. They can be found in deserts and glaciers.
  - D. They can only be found in tropical rainforests.
- 10) Do crane flies cause damage to plants?
  - A. They actually help plants grow by providing nutrients to the soil.
  - B. Yes, their larvae can cause damage to lawns and gardens.
  - C. They only eat decaying plant matter, so they don't cause any damage.
  - D. No, crane flies don't cause any damage to plants.



- 11) What do adult crane flies eat?
- A. Adult crane flies eat other insects      B. Adult crane flies don't eat  
C. Adult crane flies eat garbage            D. Adult crane flies eat plants

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

- 12) "I start my life cycle by laying my eggs high up in tree branches!"  
13) "Next time you see one of us, just remember, we are completely harmless."  
14) "As babies, we leatherjackets like to stay on the surface and hunt for food."  
15) "Only a few hundred of us crane flies exist in the world!"  
16) "We love to stay near water bodies. It helps our larvae grow well."  
17) "Our young ones, known as 'leatherjackets', spend most of their time underground, eating roots and decaying plants."  
18) "I wouldn't be seen anywhere near a forest. We make our homes in the cold Canadian snow."  
19) "Me and my larva buddies hate the dirt!"  
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21) "We adults eat so little! In fact, some of us don't eat anything during our short life."  
22) "If I get caught by a predator, it's game over! I can't escape at all."  
23) "You can spot us anywhere in the world, we're pretty good travellers."  
24) "We don't lay eggs. Unlike other insects we give live birth!"  
25) "Our life begins with our mom laying her eggs in moist soil or water."  
26) "We crane flies love being in super dry areas."  
27) "I spend most of my adulthood eating to build up energy for my long life."  
28) "We are dangerous to humans and our bites can spread disease."  
29) "Did you know we look like huge mosquitoes? But, hey, we don't bite at all!"  
30) "We look scary, like mosquitoes, but we never bite or spread diseases."  
31) "After spending few months underground, we come out as adult crane flies."  
32) "If we get caught, we have a special trick up our sleeve - we shed our legs and then regrow them! Cool, isn't it?"

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

- 33) Crane flies look like big mosquitoes, but they cannot bite.  
34) It's creepy that crane fly larvae live underground and eat plant roots.  
35) If a crane fly is caught, it can lose its legs to escape danger and regrow them later.  
36) Crane flies, with their long legs and wings, look way more interesting than other flying insects.  
37) Crane fly larvae are known as 'leatherjackets' and they feed on plant roots.  
38) Crane flies are scary because they look like giant mosquitoes.  
39) Crane flies serve as food for other creatures like birds and spiders.  
40) The female crane fly lays her eggs in wet soil or water.  
41) Crane flies are cool to watch because they fly fast and can even lose legs to escape danger.  
42) Crane flies are awesome creatures because they can live almost anywhere in the world.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 43) Caught crane flies can shed their legs to escape danger.  
44) The life cycle of a crane fly starts with the female laying her eggs in dry soil.





- 70) Female crane flies lay their eggs in moist soil or water. Why do they choose these locations?
- A. Crane flies only lay eggs on dry land.
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  - C. Crane flies are attracted to bright sunlight.
  - D. Crane flies don't need water to lay eggs.
- 71) Crane flies can be found in various habitats, including forests, meadows, and even deserts. What does this tell us about them?
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# Crane Flies

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. \_\_\_\_\_ 65. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_ 41. \_\_\_\_\_ 66. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_ 42. \_\_\_\_\_ 67. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_ 43. \_\_\_\_\_ 68. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_ 44. \_\_\_\_\_ 69. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_ 45. \_\_\_\_\_ 70. \_\_\_\_\_
21. \_\_\_\_\_ 46. \_\_\_\_\_ 71. \_\_\_\_\_
22. \_\_\_\_\_ 47. \_\_\_\_\_ 72. \_\_\_\_\_
23. \_\_\_\_\_ 48. \_\_\_\_\_ 73. \_\_\_\_\_
24. \_\_\_\_\_ 49. \_\_\_\_\_ 74. \_\_\_\_\_
25. \_\_\_\_\_ 50. \_\_\_\_\_



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- |     |                             |     |                               |     |                                     |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1.  | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>     | 26. | <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>     | 51. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 2.  | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>     | 27. | <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>     | 52. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 3.  | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 28. | <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>     | 53. | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>             |
| 4.  | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 29. | <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u>   | 54. | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 5.  | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>     | 30. | <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u>   | 55. | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 6.  | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>     | 31. | <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u>   | 56. | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 7.  | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>     | 32. | <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u>   | 57. | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 8.  | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 33. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 58. | <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 9.  | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>     | 34. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 59. | <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 10. | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 35. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 60. | <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 11. | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 36. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 61. | <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
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**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

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