



Imagine a tiny creature, dressed in a smart suit of black and red. That's our star of the day, the boxelder bug! These little bugs are about half an inch long and have a distinctive red stripe pattern on their black bodies. They have six legs, two antennae, and wings that they keep neatly tucked away when they're not flying. Boxelder bugs are quite the sight, especially when they gather in large groups, creating a sea of black and red!



Remember those large groups we talked about? Well, you're likely to find them in and around boxelder trees, hence their name. These bugs love the seeds and leaves of these trees and that's what they mostly eat. But don't worry, they also like other soft fruits and sometimes even the juicy parts of other plants. So whether it's in a forest or your backyard, if there's a boxelder tree, you might just find these little guys hanging out!

Now, from hanging out on trees to transforming into adults, boxelder bugs have a fascinating life cycle. They start out as eggs in the spring, hatch into nymphs, and by summer, they're all grown up. The adults then lay eggs and the cycle starts all over again. Even though they're small, these bugs are quite the survivors and can live up to a year!

A whole year! That's quite impressive for such a small creature, isn't it? Now, you might be wondering if boxelder bugs are harmful to us or other animals. Well, the good news is, they're not! They don't bite or sting, and they mostly keep to themselves, unless they find their way into your home to escape the cold. So, the next time you see a boxelder bug, remember, it's a harmless, fascinating little creature that's just trying to live its life!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color stripe pattern can be seen on boxelder bugs' bodies?
 - A. yellow
 - B. green
 - C. blue
 - D. red
- 2) What do boxelder bugs prefer to eat?
 - A. Seeds and leaves
 - B. Twigs and bark
 - C. nuts and legumes
 - D. Fruits and vegetables
- 3) When do boxelder bugs start out as eggs?
 - A. in the winter
 - B. in the summer
 - C. in the spring
 - D. in the fall
- 4) Where do boxelder bugs like to hang out?
 - A. Cornfields
 - B. Rose bushes
 - C. Palm trees
 - D. Boxelder trees
- 5) Why might boxelder bugs enter your home?
 - A. to escape the cold
 - B. because they're lost
 - C. to lay eggs
 - D. to find food
- 6) How many legs do boxelder bugs have?
 - A. four
 - B. two
 - C. eight
 - D. six
- 7) When do boxelder bugs transform into adults?
 - A. by winter
 - B. by spring
 - C. by summer
 - D. by fall
- 8) How long can boxelder bugs live?
 - A. up to a day
 - B. up to a week
 - C. up to a month
 - D. up to a year
- 9) Are boxelder bugs harmful to humans or other animals?
 - A. Yes
 - B. Only to birds
 - C. No
 - D. Only to dogs
- 10) Do boxelder bugs bite or sting?
 - A. only males
 - B. yes
 - C. no
 - D. only females

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

- 11) "Don't worry, I'm not harmful to you."
- 12) "I'm pretty small. Only half an inch long."
- 13) "When I'm not in your house, I'm hanging out in my favourite place – near boxelder trees."



- 14) "I usually live less than a month."
- 15) "In spring when I hatch from the egg, I'm a nymph. In just a few short months I'm the adult box elder bug you see today."
- 16) "I live my entire life on a single leaf."
- 17) "We only eat the seeds and leaves of boxelder trees and nothing else."
- 18) "If you see me in your house during colder months, please don't get mad, I'm only trying to stay warm."
- 19) "I prefer to keep my wings neatly tucked away when I'm not using them."
- 20) "You wouldn't believe it, but a boxelder bug like me can live up to a whole year! That's a lot of bug-time."
- 21) "We boxelder bugs cannot fly."
- 22) "While I mostly eat leaves and seeds, there is some variety to my diet, including fruits."
- 23) "Despite my name, you'll never find me near a boxelder tree."
- 24) "Seeds and leaves of boxelder trees are my favourite meals."
- 25) "We boxelder bugs are usually lone wolves, we do not like company."
- 26) "I will bite or sting if I feel threatened."
- 27) "My body is almost entirely black, but I do have bits of red."

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

- 28) An adult Boxelder bug can live for up to a year.
- 29) Boxelder bugs are the best insects because they are harmless to humans and animals.
- 30) Boxelder bugs favor the seeds and leaves of boxelder trees for their diet.
- 31) The fact that boxelder bugs can live up to a year is really impressive for such tiny creatures.
- 32) Boxelder bugs have a distinct red stripe pattern on their black bodies.
- 33) Boxelder bugs are not annoying because they mostly keep to themselves.
- 34) Boxelder bugs do not harm humans as they do not sting or bite.
- 35) Boxelder bugs have six legs, two antennae, and wings.
- 36) Boxelder bugs look cool because of their black and red stripes.
- 37) It is impressive to see hundreds of boxelder bugs gathered in large groups.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Boxelder bugs can live up to a year.
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- 42) Boxelder bugs can usually be found in and around boxelder trees.
- 43) Boxelder bugs lay eggs in the winter.
- 44) Boxelder bugs get their name because they often live in boxes.



- 45) Boxelder bugs only eat smaller insects.
- 46) Boxelder bugs do not bite or sting.
- 47) Boxelder bugs are about half an inch long.

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

- 48) Boxelder bugs like to live in boxelder trees and other types of maple trees.
- 49) Boxelder bugs are attracted to the boxelder trees, it's astonishing!
- 50) It's amazing how boxelder bugs hibernate in buildings during winter!
- 51) Can you believe that boxelder bugs are a bright red color when they are young!
- 52) It's weird that boxelder bugs release a pungent and foul odor when squashed!
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- 58) Boxelder bugs are very good climbers, that's quite impressive!
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- 60) Boxelder bugs change to black and red when they are adults, that's incredible!
- 61) The adult boxelder bug is 1/2 inch long, that's quite small!
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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
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|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>false</u> | 51. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 2. <u>A</u> | 27. <u>true</u> | 52. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> | 53. <u>declarative</u> |
| 4. <u>D</u> | 29. <u>opinion</u> | 54. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 5. <u>A</u> | 30. <u>fact</u> | 55. <u>exclamatory</u> |
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| 8. <u>D</u> | 33. <u>opinion</u> | 58. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 9. <u>C</u> | 34. <u>fact</u> | 59. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 10. <u>C</u> | 35. <u>fact</u> | 60. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 11. <u>true</u> | 36. <u>opinion</u> | 61. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 12. <u>true</u> | 37. <u>opinion</u> | 62. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 13. <u>true</u> | 38. <u>true</u> | 63. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 14. <u>false</u> | 39. <u>false</u> | |
| 15. <u>true</u> | 40. <u>true</u> | |
| 16. <u>false</u> | 41. <u>false</u> | |
| 17. <u>false</u> | 42. <u>true</u> | |
| 18. <u>true</u> | 43. <u>false</u> | |
| 19. <u>true</u> | 44. <u>false</u> | |
| 20. <u>true</u> | 45. <u>false</u> | |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>true</u> | |
| 22. <u>true</u> | 47. <u>true</u> | |
| 23. <u>false</u> | 48. <u>declarative</u> | |
| 24. <u>true</u> | 49. <u>exclamatory</u> | |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>exclamatory</u> | |

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

- 11)** "Don't worry, I'm not harmful to you." (paragraph 4)



12) "I'm pretty small. Only half an inch long." (paragraph 1)