



In the fascinating world of bugs, there's a cool critter called the assassin bug. This bug is not your average little crawler, it's often dressed in a sharp, shiny armor, and carries a name that might make you think of sneaky spies. Assassin bugs can vary in color, from brown to bright red, and can range in size from 1 to 1.5 inches long. These mysterious bugs have long, thin legs and a unique curved mouthpart they use to catch their dinner.

Speaking of dinner, assassin bugs aren't picky eaters. They snack on a variety of other bugs, from beetles and aphids to caterpillars and even other assassin bugs! To catch their meal, they use their long mouthpart like a sword, stabbing their prey and injecting a special kind of saliva that turns the insides of their victim into a soup. Then, it's dinner time as they suck up the nutritious bug soup.

After getting to know their interesting diet, let's dive into where these bugs call home. Assassin bugs can be found all over the world, from forests and meadows to your very own backyard. However, they prefer to live in warmer climates and are often found hiding under rocks, leaves, or bark waiting for their next meal to pass by. In terms of their life cycle, they start as eggs, then hatch into nymphs, and finally grow into adult assassin bugs.



Now that we've explored their homes and life cycle, let's talk about their relationship with us and other animals. While they may sound scary, assassin bugs are actually helpful to humans because they eat other bugs that can harm our gardens and crops. But be careful, because if threatened, they can give a painful bite as a defense! So, while they might look and sound like something from a spy movie, they're really just another interesting part of our big, wonderful world of bugs.



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) What color can assassin bugs be?
  - A. Blue to purple
  - B. Green to yellow
  - C. Brown to red
  - D. Black to white
- 2) About how large can assassin bugs grow to?
  - A. About 6 inches
  - B. An inch and a half
  - C. They are microscopic
  - D. About 1 foot
- 3) What is special about assassin bug's saliva?
  - A. It has a potent odor and is used in defense
  - B. It has a pigment that lets it glow in the dark
  - C. It is acidic and can dissolve rocks and stones
  - D. It turns the insides of their victim into a soup
- 4) Why are assassin bugs helpful to humans?
  - A. They eat bugs that harm our gardens and crops
  - B. They pollinate flowers
  - C. They produce honey
  - D. They scare away other bugs
- 5) What defense do assassin bugs have if they are threatened?
  - A. Give a painful bite
  - B. Play dead
  - C. Run away
  - D. Fly away
- 6) What do assassin bugs eat?
  - A. Seeds
  - B. Bugs
  - C. Fruits
  - D. Plants
- 7) Where can assassin bugs be found?
  - A. Only in deserts
  - B. All over the world
  - C. Only in tropical regions
  - D. Only in cold areas
- 8) What climates do assassin bugs prefer?
  - A. Desert climates
  - B. Tropical climates
  - C. Colder climates
  - D. Warmer climates
- 9) Where are you most likely to find assassin bugs in the wild?
  - A. Beaches, lakes, and oceans
  - B. Forests, meadows, and backyards
  - C. Cities, towns, and villages
  - D. Mountains, valleys, and plateaus
- 10) How do assassin bugs start their life cycle?
  - A. As larvae
  - B. As nymphs
  - C. As adults
  - D. As eggs

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

- 11) "We like the warmth, so we usually make homes in climates that aren't too cold."



- 12) "We generally won't harm humans, but if we feel threatened, we might give a painful bite to defend ourselves."
- 13) "I don't like hiding under rocks, leaves, or bark."
- 14) "You'll find us assassin bugs everywhere, even probably in your own backyard."
- 15) "I'm not a picky eater. From beetles to caterpillars, I enjoy a variety of bug delicacies."
- 16) "I'm not as bad as I look. I actually eat bugs that may pester gardeners and farmers."
- 17) "I never bite humans, even if threatened."
- 18) "In the world of insects, I'm considered quite tall, often reaching up to an inch and a half long."
- 19) "I love to explore different places, but forests and meadows are among my top favourite spots."
- 20) "I'm a total vegetarian; other bugs are my friends, not food."
- 21) "I prefer living in open areas."
- 22) "My special spit can turn my dinner into a nutritious soup."
- 23) "When we're not busy hunting, we usually rest under cool rocks, leaves, or bark."
- 24) "I use my mouth strong teeth to chew my food."
- 25) "I prefer living in colder climates."
- 26) "I've seen a lot in my lifetime, from starting as a tiny egg, growing into a nymph and finally transforming into an adult."

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

- 27) Assassin bugs can be found in various parts of the world including forests and meadows.
- 28) Assassin bugs are the most interesting when they are nymphs.
- 29) Assassin bugs capture their food by stabbing it with their mouthpart and injecting a saliva that liquefies the interior of the prey.
- 30) Assassin bugs are creepy because they inject a special saliva into their prey.
- 31) Assassin bugs have a unique mouthpart which they use to catch their food.
- 32) Seeing an assassin bug in a meadow would be a fascinating sight.
- 33) Assassin bugs begin their lifecycle as eggs, then they grow into nymphs and finally mature into adults.
- 34) Assassin bugs are not particular about their food, they can eat a range of bugs.
- 35) Assassin bugs are the coolest looking bugs because they have a sword-like mouthpart to catch their dinner.
- 36) The way assassin bugs turn the insides of their prey into soup is fascinating.

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

- 37) Assassin bugs pierce their prey and turn their insides into a soup.
- 38) Assassin bugs only eat beetles.
- 39) Assassin bugs can be bright red in color.
- 40) Assassin bugs have short thick legs.



- 41) Assassin bugs prefer to live under rocks, leaves and bark.
- 42) Assassin bugs are harmful to humans and should be avoided at all costs.
- 43) All assassin bugs are 1 inch long.
- 44) Assassin bugs do not bite.
- 45) Assassin bugs eat a variety of other bugs.
- 46) Assassin bugs can help humans by eating bugs that might harm crops.

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

- 47) They've got a cool and unique appearance.
  - A. They had
  - B. They have
  - C. They will
  - D. They did
- 48) Their beak isn't just for show, it's a deadly weapon!
  - A. is not
  - B. does not
  - C. are not
  - D. was not
- 49) Assassin bugs don't usually hurt people.
  - A. does not
  - B. cannot
  - C. did not
  - D. do not
- 50) It's amazing how they can eat insects bigger than them.
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- 51) They're great at hiding and waiting for food.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 52) Assassin bugs molt several times as they grow from nymphs to adults.
- 53) It's astonishing how assassin bugs can turn their victims into pure liquid using powerful enzymes!
- 54) Assassin bugs have a sharp beak called a rostrum.
- 55) Where do assassin bugs live?
- 56) Can assassin bugs fly?
- 57) The fact that some species of assassin bugs feed on the blood of vertebrates including humans is creepy yet fascinating!
- 58) Assassin bugs feed on other insects like ants, beetles, and caterpillars.
- 59) How long do assassin bugs live?
- 60) The fact that there are over 7,000 species of assassin bugs around the world is truly astonishing!



- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
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| 11. _____ | 36. _____ |           |
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- |                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>C</u>      | 26. <u>true</u>    | 51. <u>C</u>             |
| 2. <u>B</u>      | 27. <u>fact</u>    | 52. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 3. <u>D</u>      | 28. <u>opinion</u> | 53. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 4. <u>A</u>      | 29. <u>fact</u>    | 54. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 5. <u>A</u>      | 30. <u>opinion</u> | 55. <u>interrogative</u> |
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| 11. <u>true</u>  | 36. <u>opinion</u> |                          |
| 12. <u>true</u>  | 37. <u>true</u>    |                          |
| 13. <u>false</u> | 38. <u>false</u>   |                          |
| 14. <u>true</u>  | 39. <u>true</u>    |                          |
| 15. <u>true</u>  | 40. <u>false</u>   |                          |
| 16. <u>true</u>  | 41. <u>true</u>    |                          |
| 17. <u>false</u> | 42. <u>false</u>   |                          |
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| 19. <u>true</u>  | 44. <u>false</u>   |                          |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u>    |                          |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>true</u>    |                          |
| 22. <u>true</u>  | 47. <u>B</u>       |                          |
| 23. <u>true</u>  | 48. <u>A</u>       |                          |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>D</u>       |                          |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>A</u>       |                          |



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C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. It turns the insides of their victim into a soup
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