



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. Brown to red
  - B. Black to white
  - C. Green to yellow
  - D. Blue to purple
  
- 2) About how large can assassin bugs grow to?
  - A. An inch and a half
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  - C. They are microscopic
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  - B. Only in cold areas
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  - A. Forests, meadows, and backyards
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**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).**

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**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.
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- 30) Assassin bugs are creepy because they inject a special saliva into their prey.
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- 32) Seeing an assassin bug in a meadow would be a fascinating sight.
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- 35) Assassin bugs are the coolest looking bugs because they have a sword-like mouthpart to catch their dinner.
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**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 37) Assassin bugs pierce their prey and turn their insides into a soup.
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- 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.
  - A. It is
  - B. It was
  - C. It does
  - D. It has
- 51) They're great at hiding and waiting for food.
  - A. They do
  - B. They is
  - C. They are
  - D. They were

**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. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 51. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 52. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 3. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 53. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 4. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 54. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 5. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 55. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 6. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 56. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 7. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 57. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 8. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 58. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
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| 12. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 37. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |
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| 24. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 49. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>       |   |
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