

Name: _____

Scorpions

By Guy Belleranti

If you've ever seen a scorpion, I doubt you would consider it a "cute and cuddly" creature. With its big, claw-like pincers and its long, curled tail and venomous stinger, a scorpion is definitely a scary sight. However, only around 30 of the nearly 2,000 species of scorpions have venom considered dangerous to humans.

Like spiders and other arachnids, scorpions have eight legs and eat meat. They live in deserts, grasslands, forests, and jungles. You can find scorpions on every continent except Antarctica.

Scorpions are nocturnal, or active during the night.



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

the Indian red scorpion, the Deathstalker of Africa and the Middle East, and the Arizona bark scorpion. Most large species, including the eight-inch African emperor scorpion, are much less dangerous.

Scorpions don't have a good sense of sight. But they do have sensory hair-like structures on their legs and bodies. These structures are capable of feeling vibrations from nearby predators, including tarantulas, centipedes, lizards, owls, bats, shrews, and mice. They can also feel vibrations from their prey, which include a variety of insects, centipedes, spiders, and sometimes, even other scorpions. Some larger species of scorpions eat small lizards and mice. Most scorpions hide and wait for their prey to come

closer. Then – crunch! They grab the unsuspecting prey with their pincers. Sometimes a scorpion will use its stinger to overcome its prey. All species of scorpions have digestive juices that help soften the scorpion's food, allowing for easy consumption.

You might be wondering where scorpions get enough water to drink, especially those species that live in arid climates. Surprisingly, scorpions get most of their water from prey. Their waxy exoskeleton keeps moisture in their bodies.

Unlike other arachnids, scorpions don't lay eggs. Instead, the babies are born live. They crawl onto their mother's back and remain there until after their first molt. What is



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

About the Author



Guy Belleranti is an author of fiction, poetry, articles, puzzles, and humor for children and adults. He also works as a docent at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences teaching children about the wild animals at the zoo. Predators include tarantulas, centipedes, lizards, owls, bats, shrews and mice.

Name: _____

Scorpions

By Guy Belleranti



1. According to the information in the article, which of the following statements about scorpions is true?
 - a. Scorpions live on every continent on Earth except Australia.
 - b. There are more than 3,000 species of scorpions.
 - c. More than half of all scorpion species are deadly to humans.
 - d. In general, the smaller the species of scorpion, the more deadly it is.

2. Which of the following does a scorpion rely on to catch its prey?



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

4. How can a scorpion's venom help people?

5. Identify three of the world's deadliest scorpions that were mentioned in the article.

_____, _____, and _____

Name: _____

Scorpions

By Guy Belleranti



Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.

_____ 1. venomous

a. an extremely dry climate

_____ 2. fascinating

b. unaware of the presence of danger

_____ 3. arachnids

c. the eating or ingesting of food



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

_____ 7. consumption

g. a classification of animals that includes
spiders and scorpions

_____ 8. arid

h. animals that get eaten by other animals

_____ 9. predators

i. highly interesting

_____ 10. prey

j. dating back to a time before humans kept
written records

Name: _____

Scorpions

By Guy Belleranti

In the article, "Scorpions," you learned that there are almost 2,000 different species of scorpions that live on every continent on Earth except Antarctica. Some of these species are more venomous than others.

Choose one species of scorpion to research. You can use the Internet with your teacher or parent's permission. On the lines below, describe the scorpion species you chose. What does it look like and where does it live? What is the most interesting thing you learned about this scorpion? Be sure to write the website address you used in your research.



Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

Website I used: _____

ANSWER KEY

Scorpions

By Guy Belleranti



1. According to the information in the article, which of the following statements about scorpions is true? **d**
 - a. Scorpions live on every continent on Earth except Australia.
 - b. There are more than 3,000 species of scorpions.

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



ANSWER KEY

Scorpions

By Guy Belleranti



Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| f | 1. venomous | a. | an extremely dry climate |
| i | 2. fascinating | b. | unaware of the presence of danger |

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



written records

LD