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Giant hornets reach North America – 7th May, 2020

Level 0

The Asian giant hornet is scary. They are from Japan and Korea but are moving to the USA. They kill around 40 people a year in Japan. They also kill honeybees. A few dozen hornets can kill 30,000 bees in a few hours. People on the west coast of the USA have to be careful of the hornets. Beekeepers are worried about their bees.

Hornets are five centimeters long. A bee breeder said: "They're like something out of a monster cartoon." The hornet's sting is very painful. A beekeeper said it is like "red-hot thumbtacks...in [your] flesh". They sting through the clothes beekeepers wear. Hornets give a warning sound before they sting. They click their jaws.

Level 1

Few insects are as scary as the Asian giant hornet. They live in Japan and Korea but are moving to the USA and Canada. The hornets kill around 40 people a year in Japan. They also kill honeybees. A few dozen hornets can kill 30,000 bees in a few hours. Authorities in Washington on the west coast of the USA have warned people to be careful of the hornets. Beekeepers are worried about their bees.

The hornets are about five centimeters long. A bee breeder said: "They're like something out of a monster cartoon with this huge yellow-orange face." The hornet's sting is very painful. A beekeeper said it is "like having red-hot thumbtacks driven into [your] flesh". The hornet's stinger can go through the clothes beekeepers wear. Another beekeeper said: "They give a warning before they sting. They snap their jaws and make a clicking sound."

Level 2

Few insects are as scary and as venomous as the Asian giant hornet. These fearsome creatures live in Japan and Korea but are moving across the Pacific Ocean to the USA and Canada. The hornets kill around 40 people a year in Japan. They also destroy colonies of honeybees. A few dozen hornets can kill an entire colony of 30,000 bees in a few hours. They take off the heads of the bees. Authorities in Washington on the west coast of the USA have warned people to be careful of the hornets. Beekeepers are worried about their beehives.

The hornets are big - about five centimeters long. A bee breeder said: "They're like something out of a monster cartoon with this huge yellow-orange face." The hornet's sting is very painful. A beekeeper described the pain. He said: "It was like having red-hot thumbtacks driven into my flesh." The hornet's stinger is half a centimeter long. It can go through the clothes beekeepers wear. Another beekeeper said: "They give a warning before they sting. They snap their jaws and make a clicking sound. But if you stick around to notice that, you're probably already in a world of hurt."

Level 3

There are some scary insects in this world. Few of them are as scary and as venomous as the Asian giant hornet. These fearsome creatures are common in Japan and Korea but are now moving across the Pacific Ocean to the USA and Canada. The hornets kill around 40 people a year in Japan. They also destroy and wipe out colonies of honeybees. A hornet attack can leave piles of dead bees, most of them headless, in their beehive. A few dozen hornets can kill an entire colony of 30,000 bees in a few hours. Authorities in Washington State on the west coast of the USA have warned people to look out for the hornets. Beekeepers are now worried about their beehives.

The hornets are big. They measure about five centimeters in length. They also look scary. Washington bee breeder Susan Cobey said: "They're like something out of a monster cartoon with this huge yellow-orange face." The sting of the hornet is extremely painful. A Vancouver beekeeper described the pain. He said: "It was like having red-hot thumbtacks driven into my flesh." He said the sting was "excruciating". The hornet's stinger is half a centimeter long. It can get through the protective clothing beekeepers wear. Another beekeeper said: "They give a warning before they sting. They snap their jaws and make a clicking sound. But if you stick around to notice that, you're probably already in a world of hurt."