

Giant hornets reach North America

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via Gilles San Martin on flickr.com

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."

Sources:
accuweather.com / nationalgeographic.com / usatoday.com

Writing

The world needs to spend lots more money to protect honey bees. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scary / insects / venomous / creatures / colonies / beehive / colony / west coast / length / monster / cartoon / painful / flesh / sting / clothing / warning / jaws / hurt

True / False

- a) The article said the Asian giant hornet is the world's scariest insect. T / F
- b) The article said the hornets are moving across the Atlantic Ocean. T / F
- c) The article said honeybees are headless after a hornet attack. T / F
- d) A few dozen hornets can kill 30,000 bees in a few hours. T / F
- e) Asian giant hornets can be up to five centimetres long. T / F
- f) A bee breeder said the hornets are now part of a monster cartoon series. T / F
- g) A hornet's stinger can go through a beekeeper's protective clothing. T / F
- h) The hornets make a clicking sound with their jaws before they sting. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. scary | a. pain |
| 2. venomous | b. whole |
| 3. entire | c. officials |
| 4. authorities | d. comic strip |
| 5. worried | e. very |
| 6. cartoon | f. frightening |
| 7. extremely | g. concerned |
| 8. driven | h. safety |
| 9. protective | i. poisonous |
| 10. hurt | j. forced |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about hornets?
- b) What do you think about insects?
- c) What is your favourite insect?
- d) Why are people afraid of insects?
- e) What would you do if you saw an Asian giant hornet?
- f) Why are honeybees so useful?
- g) What are the differences between hornets and bees?
- h) What is the world's scariest insect?

Phrase Match

1. Few of them are as scary
 2. These fearsome creatures are
 3. wipe out colonies
 4. A hornet attack can leave
 5. on the west
 6. They measure about five centimeters
 7. They're like something out of a
 8. The sting of the hornet is extremely
 9. It can get through the protective clothing
 10. They snap their jaws and make a
- a. in length
 - b. piles of dead bees
 - c. clicking sound
 - d. of honeybees
 - e. painful
 - f. common in Japan
 - g. beekeepers wear
 - h. coast of the USA
 - i. monster cartoon
 - j. and as venomous

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you kill a hornet if you saw one?
- c) Have you ever been stung by an insect?
- d) What is the most pain you've been in?
- e) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- f) What advice do you have for the beekeepers?
- g) How do you deal with pain?
- h) What questions would you like to ask beekeepers?

Spelling

1. ysrac insects
2. as ousvmone as the Asian giant hornet
3. fearsome rectauesr are common
4. A hornet tcaakt
5. kill an rtneie colony of 30,000 bees
6. on the west sotac of the USA
7. They sameeru about five centimeters
8. elmryeetx painful
9. driven into my sfhle
10. iroevctpte clothing
11. They snap their sawj
12. if you stick around to ctoeni that

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. c	5. g
6. d	7. e	8. j	9. h	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Hornets

You think hornets are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): centipedes, tarantulas or bed bugs.

Role B – Centipedes

You think centipedes are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): hornets, tarantulas or bed bugs.

Role C – Tarantulas

You think tarantulas are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): centipedes, hornets or bed bugs.

Role D – Bed Bugs

You think bed bugs are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): centipedes, tarantulas or hornets.

Speaking – Scary Insects

Rank these with your partner. Put the scariest insects at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- fire ants
- tarantulas
- bed bugs
- killer bees
- hornets
- centipedes
- cockroaches
- mosquitos

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.