

30,000 bees attack couple, kill ponies

31st July, 2013



Being attacked by killer bees usually only happens in horror movies or nightmares. For a couple in Texas, the nightmare turned into reality on Wednesday

night. Kristen Beauregard, 44, and her boyfriend were in their garden exercising their two ponies. Ms Beauregard told reporters that everything was normal until one of the ponies started kicking and jumping. The animal was very frightened about something. Suddenly she saw a dark cloud in the sky and she realised it was a swarm of bees. She said: "It got all dark, like it was night time, there were so many bees." The bees attacked the couple and their horses.

Luckily they had a swimming pool, so the couple jumped in. Ms Beauregard was stung over 200 times by the bees. Her boyfriend counted over 50 stings on his arms, neck and head. The pool probably saved their lives because the bees could not attack them under the water. Kristen explained how terrifying it was. She said: "We were trying to stand up in the water but every time we stuck our heads out for air, they would cover us and start stinging us. We were trying to breathe and they were stinging us on the face and on the nose." Unfortunately, the two ponies could not escape from the bees. They got stung thousands of times. One died on the farm, the other passed away at the vet's clinic later that evening.

Sources: Sky News / NBC

Writing

Bees are among the most dangerous animals in the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

horror movies / nightmares / reality / garden / exercising / normal / dark cloud / night / swimming pool / stings / under water / terrifying / breathe / escape / passed away

True / False

- a) A couple was attacked by bees while watched a horror movie. T / F
- b) A pony attacked the bees. T / F
- c) The woman saw something she thought was a bright, white cloud. T / F
- d) There were so many bees it went dark, like it was nighttime. T / F
- e) It is likely that a swimming pool saved the couple from death. T / F
- f) The man had 250 stings on his arms, neck and head. T / F
- g) The bees tried to attack the couple while they were in the water. T / F
- h) The ponies could not get away from the swarm. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. usually | a. frightening |
| 2. happens | b. ordinary |
| 3. nightmare | c. run away |
| 4. normal | d. normally |
| 5. realised | e. fortunately |
| 6. luckily | f. added up |
| 7. counted | g. occurs |
| 8. terrifying | h. died |
| 9. escape | i. bad dream |
| 10. passed away | j. understood |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How dangerous can a bee sting be?
- b) What insects do you like and dislike?
- c) Is being a beekeeper dangerous?
- d) What would you be thinking if you were in a pool with thousands of bees above?
- e) Do you like bees?
- f) What does the expression "the birds and the bees" mean? Why?
- g) Why do we say we are as busy as a bee?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a bee expert?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. usually only happens | a. trying to breathe |
| 2. the nightmare turned | b. their two ponies |
| 3. in their garden exercising | c. their lives |
| 4. Suddenly she saw a dark | d. of bees |
| 5. it was a swarm | e. from the bees |
| 6. stung over | f. into reality |
| 7. The pool probably saved | g. in horror movies |
| 8. We were | h. away at the vet's |
| 9. the two ponies could not escape | i. 200 times |
| 10. the other passed | j. cloud in the sky |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about this news story?
- How dangerous are bees?
- What is your worst nightmare?
- What would you do if you saw a swarm of bees?
- Have you ever been stung by a bee or other insect? What happened?
- What do you do when a bee is near you?
- Why are people afraid of bees?
- Why are bees in cartoons usually cute?

Spelling

- ohorr movies or aiemrnshgt
- turned into yaertil
- sgnirxicee their two ponies
- The animal was very ehenfridtg
- she ereilads it
- a wmrso of bees
- The pool bblyarop saved their lives
- Kristen explained how geinryfrti it was
- trying to etbhrae
- rUonnltyeufat, the two ponies could not escape
- They got stung duhtsnoas of times
- passed away at the vet's iclicn

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Bees

You think bees are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): snakes, spiders or elephants.

Role B – Snakes

You think snakes are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): bees, spiders or elephants.

Role C – Spiders

You think spiders are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): snakes, bees or elephants.

Role D – Elephants

You think elephants are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): snakes, spiders or bees.

Speaking - Nightmares

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

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| • attacked by bees | • failing exams |
| • getting lost | • losing mobile phone |
| • falling | • airplane engine trouble |
| • natural disasters | • having no money |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.