

Scorpions sting more than 500 people in Egypt

18th November, 2021



More than 500 people have been stung by scorpions in Aswan, Egypt. Heavy rain forced hundreds of the eight-legged creatures into the streets and into people's homes earlier this week. Many of the people who were stung had to go to hospital. Doctors gave them anti-venom injections. The people were able to go home after

having the jab. Those stung by the scorpions had symptoms including severe pain, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea. The Health Ministry has put hospitals on alert just in case more people are stung. A weather expert asked farmers in the area to be careful, especially when planting crops. In addition, he asked people to be careful of snakes, which were also seen after the rain.

People in Aswan are worried because the scorpions in their town are very dangerous. They are Arabian fat-tailed scorpions. Their nickname is "man-killer". The Al Jazeera news agency says they are among the most dangerous scorpions in the world. The venom in their sting is very poisonous and can kill a human within an hour. However, fat-tailed scorpions live in the mountains and rarely come into contact with humans. The weather expert advised people to wear proper footwear when they went outside to avoid getting bitten. He said the scorpion numbers would go down after the rainwater dried up. Less than one per cent of the world's scorpion species are deadly.

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / egyptindependent.com / mirror.co.uk

Writing

Insects and other creatures will cause humans more problems in the future. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

500 / scorpions / creatures / streets / hospital / injections / pain / fever / farmers / worried / nickname / news agency / venom / weather / expert / footwear / deadly

True / False

- 1) Scorpions stung over 500 people in Egypt's capital city Cairo. T / F
- 2) Rainwater washed many scorpions into people's homes. T / F
- 3) People who had anti-venom injections had to stay in hospital. T / F
- 4) A weather expert asked farmers to be careful when harvesting crops. T / F
- 5) The scorpions are fat-tailed scorpions. T / F
- 6) The scorpion's venom can kill a human in just one hour. T / F
- 7) The scorpions are from the mountains. T / F
- 8) About 10 per cent of the world's scorpion species are deadly. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. stung | a. very bad |
| 2. injection | b. poison |
| 3. severe | c. Also |
| 4. expert | d. seldom |
| 5. In addition | e. jab |
| 6. worried | f. bitten |
| 7. venom | g. lethal |
| 8. rarely | h. stay away from |
| 9. avoid | i. specialist |
| 10. deadly | j. concerned |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about scorpions?
- b) What would you do if you saw a scorpion?
- c) Why do people think scorpions are so scary?
- d) Have you ever been stung by anything?
- e) Which are scarier - scorpions, snakes or spiders?
- f) What scary creatures are there where you live?
- g) What animal are you most scared of?
- h) What do you think of injections?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. hundreds of the eight- | a. bitten |
| 2. Doctors gave them anti- | b. having the jab |
| 3. people were able to go home after | c. crops |
| 4. Those stung by the scorpions | d. contact with humans |
| 5. planting | e. had symptoms |
| 6. Their nickname | f. legged creatures |
| 7. The venom in their sting | g. species are deadly |
| 8. rarely come into | h. is very poisonous |
| 9. avoid getting | i. venom injections |
| 10. the world's scorpion | j. is "man-killer" |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of scorpions?
- What do you know about Egypt?
- Would you eat food made from scorpions?
- What is the difference between scorpions and insects?
- What three adjectives best describe scorpions?
- Could you touch or hold a scorpion?
- What questions would you like to ask a scorpion expert?

Spelling

- hundreds of the eight-legged urtscaeer
- Doctors gave them anti-venom jtionniecs
- symptoms including verese pain
- A weather teexpr
- especially when planting prcso
- be careful of saknes
- Their minanekc is "man-killer"
- The Al Jazeera news gecayn
- their sting is very ouinspoo
- rarely come into conatct with humans
- advised people to wear eorrpp footwear
- the world's scorpion scipes

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Scorpions

You think scorpions are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): rats, cockroaches or lions.

Role B – Rats

You think rats are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): scorpions, cockroaches or lions.

Role C – Cockroaches

You think cockroaches are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): rats, scorpions or lions.

Role D – Lions

You think lions are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): rats, cockroaches or scorpions.

Speaking – Scary Animals

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

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| • Scorpions | • Snakes |
| • Tarantulas | • Lions |
| • Cockroaches | • Buffalo |
| • Bears | • Rats |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 F	5 T	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.