



# Asian Giant Hornets



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."

## Matching

Draw a line to the correct definition of the word.

### Paragraph 1

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1. Scary    | • With no part left out; whole  |
| 2. Venomous | • An animal, but not a human being  |
| 3. Creature | • Put an end to something by damaging or attacking it                               |
| 4. Destroy  | • Frightening; causing fear.  |
| 5. Colony   | • A large group of animals or insects of one kind living close together.            |
| 6. Entire   | • Poisonous, especially when an insect, snake or sea creatures stings or bites you. |

### Paragraph 2

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 7. Huge      | • Very, very, very.   |
| 8. Sting     | • The upper and lower bones that form the mouth and contain the teeth.                      |
| 9. Extremely | • The soft muscle and fat that is found between the skin and bones of an animal or a human. |
| 10. Flesh    | • Very, very big.   |
| 11. Jaws     | • A sharp, burning pain after an insect (like a bee) bites you or puts venom inside you.    |

## Synonym Match

Match the words to their synonym (different word with similar meaning).

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 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      |

## Multiple Choice: Comprehension

Choose the answer.

1) What did the article say the hornets were besides scary and fearsome?

- a) boring
- b) colourful
- c) cute
- d) venomous

2) Where do the hornets kill around 40 people a year?

- a) Australia
- b) Japan
- c) Thailand
- d) Papua New Guinea

3) What shape are dead bees in after a hornet attack?

- a) messy
- b) triangular
- c) square
- d) headless

4) How many honeybees can a few dozen hornets kill in a few hours?

- a) 33,000
- b) 13,000
- c) 30,000
- d) 3,000

5) What are beekeepers now worried about?

- a) a giant hornet invasion
- b) honey
- c) getting stung
- d) their beehives

6) How long are Asian giant hornets?

- a) 5mm
- b) 15cm
- c) 5cm
- d) 50cm

7) What colour is the face of the giant Asian hornet?

- a) yellow-orange
- b) greeny-blue
- c) yellowy-brown
- d) pinkish

8) What did the article say was half a centimeter long?

- a) the hornet's wings
- b) the hornet's head
- c) the hornet's stinger
- d) the hornets eyes

9) What do hornets snap before they sting?

- a) their wings
- b) their jaws
- c) their legs
- d) their eyelids

10) What world might you be in if you hear a hornet's warning?

- a) a world of hurt
- b) another world
- c) their own world
- d) this world

## Phrase Matching

Draw a line to the words that finish the phrase.

### Paragraph 1

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Few insects are as scary | a. dozen hornets        |
| 2. fearsome                 | b. coast of the USA     |
| 3. moving across            | c. creatures            |
| 4. A few                    | d. about their beehives |
| 5. kill an entire colony    | e. the Pacific Ocean    |
| 6. on the west              | f. the hornets          |
| 7. be careful of            | g. of 30,000 bees       |
| 8. Beekeepers are worried   | h. and as venomous      |

### Paragraph 2

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. like something out of a        | a. driven into my flesh |
| 2. The hornet's sting is          | b. beekeepers wear      |
| 3. like having red-hot thumbtacks | c. sound                |
| 4. The hornet's stinger is half   | d. very painful         |
| 5. go through the clothes         | e. a centimeter long    |
| 6. They give a warning before     | f. notice that          |
| 7. make a clicking                | g. monster cartoon      |
| 8. if you stick around to         | h. they sting           |