

# Scorpions



Scorpions stung over 500 people in Egypt. Heavy rain forced hundreds of scorpions into the streets and people's homes earlier this week. Many people had to go to hospital. Doctors gave them anti-venom injections. The people went home after having the jab. Those stung by the scorpions had severe pain, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea. Hospitals are now on alert, just in case more people are stung. A weather expert said farmers in the area should be careful, especially in their fields. He asked people to be careful of snakes, which were also seen after the rain.

People are worried because the scorpions are very dangerous. They are Arabian fat-tailed scorpions. Their nickname is "man-killer". They are among the most dangerous scorpions in the world. Their venom is very poisonous and can kill a human in an hour. The scorpions live in the mountains. They rarely come into contact with humans. The weather expert said people should wear proper footwear when they went outside. 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.

## Matching

Draw a line to the correct definition of the word.

### Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. injection | • Of something bad or undesirable; very great; intense.  |
| 2. venom     | • An animal, but not a human being   |
| 3. creature  | • A poisonous liquid that snakes, spiders, and scorpions have that can hurt or kill other animals. |
| 4. severe    | • A sickness where you have a very high body temperature (usually over 38°C).                      |
| 5. fever     | • A large group of animals or insects of one kind living close together.                           |
|              | • The act of putting a liquid (especially a drug or vaccine) into the body using a syringe         |

### Paragraph 2

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 6. nickname  | • Of the correct type or form; suitable or appropriate.                                     |
| 7. poisonous | • A person who is very knowledgeable about or skillful in a particular area.                |
| 8. rarely    | • A name given to a person or thing instead of their real name.                             |
| 9. proper    | • A group of living things of the same type, that can produce young together.               |
| 10. species  | • Of a liquid, chemical or plant that can kill us if we eat it or if it gets into our body. |
| 11. expert   | • Not often; seldom   |

## Synonym Match

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

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

## Multiple Choice: Comprehension

Choose the answer.

- 1) Where in Egypt did this news take place?
  - a) Cairo
  - b) Aswan
  - c) Alexandria
  - d) Luxor
- 2) What did doctors give to people with scorpion stings?
  - a) advice
  - b) medicine
  - c) an injection
  - d) thick socks
- 3) Where did the people go after having a jab?
  - a) the desert
  - b) the mountains
  - c) hospital
  - d) home
- 4) Who told farmers to be careful?
  - a) the government
  - b) a weather expert
  - c) a scorpion expert
  - d) soldiers
- 5) What else do people in the area have to be careful of?
  - a) snakes
  - b) rats
  - c) cockroaches
  - d) locusts
- 6) What is the nickname of the scorpions?
  - a) Man-killer
  - b) Stinger
  - c) Stingie
  - d) Stay Away
- 7) Which news agency said the scorpions were dangerous?
  - a) ABC
  - b) CNN
  - c) BBC
  - d) Al Jazeera
- 8) How long could it take for the scorpion to kill a human?
  - a) seconds
  - b) a day
  - c) an hour
  - d) a few minutes
- 9) When should people wear proper footwear?
  - a) in the desert
  - b) at home
  - c) in the mountains
  - d) when going outside
- 10) What percentage of scorpion species are deadly?
  - a) 10%
  - b) less than 1%
  - c) about 5%
  - d) between 7%-9%

## Phrase Matching

Draw a line to the words that finish the phrase.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. heavy                        | a. alert                |
| 2. forced hundreds of scorpions | b. week                 |
| 3. earlier this                 | c. venom injections     |
| 4. Many people had to           | d. be careful of snakes |
| 5. Doctors gave them anti-      | e. rain                 |
| 6. severe                       | f. go to hospital       |
| 7. Hospitals are now on         | g. into the streets     |
| 8. He asked people to           | h. pain                 |

### Paragraph 2

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The scorpions are             | a. "man-killer"     |
| 2. They are Arabian fat-         | b. poisonous        |
| 3. Their nickname is             | c. footwear         |
| 4. They are among the            | d. tailed scorpions |
| 5. Their venom is very           | e. with humans      |
| 6. They rarely come into contact | f. very dangerous   |
| 7. People should wear proper     | g. dried up         |
| 8. After the rainwater           | h. most dangerous   |