Name_____

Ticks

Ticks are small animals that belong to the group of animals known as arachnids. Arachnids also include spiders and scorpions. Ticks are different from these other arachnids in that they are parasites. This means they must feed on the fluids of other animals, including humans.

When a tick attaches to a host, it often carries diseases. When they bite into the bodies of animals, the diseases they carry can be passed to the victims. In some cases, these diseases can be deadly. Some ticks even have poisonous bites. This poison has even been known to cause paralysis in humans.

Because ticks carry disease, it is important to remove one, if found, as quickly as possible. Removal is slightly tricky, and the person attempting to remove the parasite must be careful to take out the entire tick and not leave the creature's head inside the victim. Two well-known diseases that can be transferred from ticks to humans are Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. Both diseases are extremely dangerous to those infected.

Like many other animals, ticks lay eggs. The eggs are usually found in dead leaves or other debris. When they hatch, the ticks are born with six legs. These tiny creatures will attach themselves to any animal that passes within their reach. They will stay and gorge themselves on blood and eventually change into eight-legged creatures, going through one more stage until they become adults.

Text Questions

1. According to the text, which statement is false?
   a. Ticks are part of a group known as arachnids.
   b. Ticks are parasites that feed off other animals.
   c. Ticks lay eggs.
   d. Ticks will kill any animals that become their host.
2. Why is it important to remove a tick as soon as it is found?
   a. They carry diseases.
   b. They will multiply quickly.
   c. They will take all of the host's blood.
   d. They are harmless and actually do not have to be removed.
3. Ticks belong to the same group of animals as spiders and are known as what?
   a. arachnids
   b. beetles
   c. reptiles
   d. amphibians
4. What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
   a. to explain how little harm ticks can cause
   b. to explain the dangers that can be caused by ticks
   c. to describe the appearance of a tick
   d. to entertain anyone reading about ticks
5. What is one reason people might want to learn more about ticks?
   a. to help keep themselves safe from disease
   b. to help stop the growth of the tick population
   c. to better understand the group known as arachnids
   d. to help identify the small parasite

LIVEWORKSHEETS