

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Did You Hear About**

## Did You Hear About

**INSTRUCTIONS:** I am going to read you a passage called *Sting!* I will read it to you twice. After you listen to the first reading, you will be asked to answer a set of questions related to what you have heard. I will then read the passage again. After the second reading, you will be given time to review your answers to the questions and revise them if needed.

# Sting!

Scorpions belong to a class of animals called arachnids. Like spiders, which are also arachnids, scorpions have eight legs. There are over 1700 different kinds of scorpions. All scorpions have large pinchers and a long tail tipped with a stinger that pumps venom into its victims. Their hard exoskeleton can be black, brown, blue, yellow, or green. They can range in size from half an inch to over seven inches long. Mother scorpions carry their babies around on their backs until they are mature enough to take care of themselves.

Scorpions are found almost everywhere in the world in almost every habitat, including deserts, rainforests, grasslands, and caves. Scorpions dig themselves into the ground or rock to hide from predators like large centipedes, tarantulas, lizards, birds (especially owls), bats, shrews, and grasshopper mice. Being hidden in the ground also gives them an advantage over their own prey, mostly insects, but sometimes small lizards or rodents.

Scorpions are nocturnal. They do not have great eyesight, but they can locate their prey by touch and smell. They hunt by grabbing their prey with their claws and stinging it. Their venom paralyzes the victim so the scorpion can eat it. Scorpions can survive for up to a year on a single meal when there is not much food available.

Out of all the different kinds of scorpions, only 25 have venom that can be deadly to humans..

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**QUESTIONS: Sting!**

1. Scorpions belong to a class of animals called \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What other animals are arachnids? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Arachnids have \_\_\_\_\_ legs.

4. What do scorpions look like?

5. What color are scorpions?



6. How long are scorpions?

7. How do mother scorpions take care of their babies?

8. Where in the world do you find scorpions?

9. Scorpions are diurnal / nocturnal.

10. How do scorpions hunt?