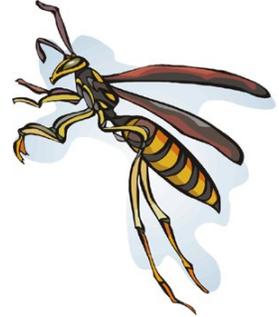


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Stink Blob to the Rescue

by Sandie Lee

Mom senses danger. It's a villainous wasp hovering just overhead. She quickly gathers her 24 nymphs under her triangular body.



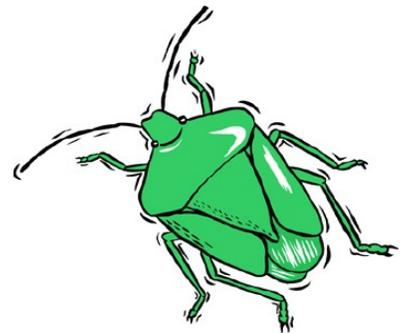
The wasp approaches.

Mom frantically waves her antennae. Not fazed, the wasp flies even closer. Mom turns her tough, shield-like back and quickly buzzes her wings. The wasp ignores her threat and lands just out of reach. Mom kicks out her middle and back legs in another attempt to scare it off.

It works. But the determined wasp only takes to the air and darts back and forth.

One of the nymphs edges out to see what all the commotion is about. The wasp speeds towards it. Mom's ready and silently drops her most powerful secret weapon...the stink blob. The wasp catches a whiff of this noxious smell and zips away in the opposite direction. Lunch will have to wait.

Stink bugs range from 6 to 12 mm in size and come in various colors. Most are brown, grey and green. Some, like the harlequin stink bug, are black with bright yellow or orange markings. All stink bugs have a large triangular structure on their backs. This raised covering points towards their hind end and is called the *scutellum*. As their name suggests, stink bugs also produce a chemical so noxious and foul that most insects and animals are repelled by it immediately. However, the stench-gob is used only as a last resort since it saps the bug of most of its energy.

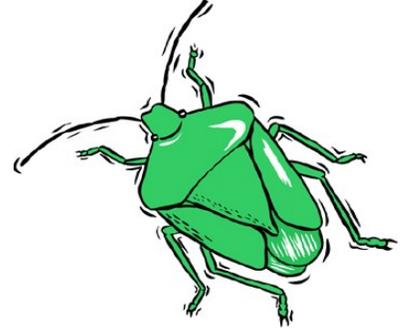


Not all insects are as protective of their young as the 'parent bug.' She will still protect her young even when they're old enough to be on their own. When the young wander off they secrete a scent trail. If in trouble they send out a powerful alarm scent. It's Mom to the rescue as she follows this scent path right to her nymph.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Stink Blob to the Rescue

by Sandie Lee



1. Why did the author write this article?
  - a. to explain how wasps hunt for prey
  - b. to give information about stink blobs
  - c. to tell you how nymphs protect themselves
  - d. to give information about stink bugs
  
2. Why do stink bugs release their terrible smell only as a last resort?
  - a. releasing the odor could kill nymphs
  - b. releasing the odor will help predators find them
  - c. releasing the odor takes lots of energy
  - d. releasing the odor kills plants

3. Why are stink bugs called the "parent bug"?

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4. Explain how the writer's style changes in the last two paragraphs.

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5. Why do you think the author begins this passage with an exciting story?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

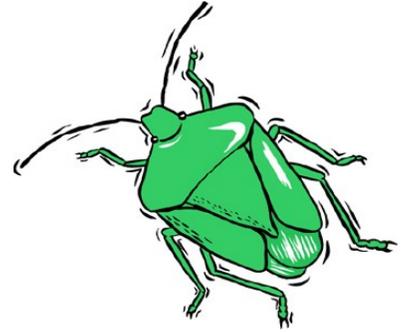
# Stink Blob to the Rescue

## Vocabulary Activity

**Part 1:** Reread "Stink Blob to the Rescue." As you read, find and highlight these vocabulary words in the passage: nymph, villainous, saps, commotion, noxious, secrete, triangular

**Part 2:** Match each word with its definition. Use a dictionary if you need help.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. nymph      | a. shaped like a triangle                                |
| _____ 2. villainous | b. weakens   |
| _____ 3. saps       | c. wicked or evil  |
| _____ 4. commotion  | d. young insect that has not yet reached the adult stage |
| _____ 5. noxious    | e. unpleasant and harmful, usually refers to a smell     |
| _____ 6. secrete    | g. wild excitement                                       |
| _____ 7. triangular | h. to release a chemical substance from the body         |



**Part 3:** Use a vocabulary word from above to correctly complete each sentence.

8. When the machine in the factory broke, it released a \_\_\_\_\_ odor into the air.
9. When the children were yelling and screaming, their mother walked in the room and asked, "What is all of this \_\_\_\_\_ about?"
10. Only a superhero can stop Dr. Dare's \_\_\_\_\_ plan to take over the world.

# ANSWER KEY

## Stink Blob to the Rescue

by Sandie Lee

1. Why did the author write this article? **d**
  - a. to explain how wasps hunt for prey
  - b. to give information about stink blobs
  - c. to tell you how nymphs protect themselves
  - d. **to give information about stink bugs**
  
2. Why do stink bugs release their terrible smell only as a last resort? **c**
  - a. releasing the odor could kill nymphs
  - b. releasing the odor will help predators find them
  - c. **releasing the odor takes lots of energy**
  - d. releasing the odor kills plants

3. Why are stink bugs called the "parent bug"?

**because the mother stink bug looks after its young and tries to protect them**

4. Explain how the writer's style changes in the last two paragraphs.

**In the beginning, the author is writing an exciting story about stinks bugs being attacked by a wasp. In the last two paragraphs, the author is giving information about stink bugs.**

5. Why do you think the author begins this passage with an exciting story?

**The author begins with an exciting story to pull the reader in, and make them interested in reading more.**

# ANSWER KEY

## Stink Blob to the Rescue

### Vocabulary Activity

**Part 1:** Reread “Stink Blob to the Rescue.” As you read, find and highlight these vocabulary words in the passage: nymph, villainous, saps, commotion, noxious, secrete, triangular

**Part 2:** Match each word with its definition. Use a dictionary if you need help.

- |          |               |   |
|----------|---------------|---|
| <b>d</b> | 1. nymph      | <b>a.</b> shaped like a triangle                                |
| <b>c</b> | 2. villainous | <b>b.</b> weakens   |
| <b>b</b> | 3. saps       | <b>c.</b> wicked or evil  |
| <b>g</b> | 4. commotion  | <b>d.</b> young insect that has not yet reached the adult stage |
| <b>e</b> | 5. noxious    | <b>e.</b> unpleasant and harmful, usually refers to a smell     |
| <b>h</b> | 6. secrete    | <b>g.</b> wild excitement                                       |
| <b>a</b> | 7. triangular | <b>h.</b> to release a chemical substance from the body         |

**Part 3:** Use a vocabulary word from above to correctly complete each sentence.

- When the machine in the factory broke, it released a **noxious** odor into the air.
- When the children were yelling and screaming, their mother walked in the room and asked, “What is all of this **commotion** about?”
- Only a superhero can stop Dr. Dare's **villainous** plan to take over the world.