



Scorpions



Scorpions are arachnids with a curved tail that can deliver a poisonous sting. Of the



1,400 known species of scorpion, approximately 25 can prove fatal to humans,



although most will not attack larger mammals unless they are provoked. If these



distinctive creatures are spotted, they provoke fear into any creature that comes across



them, regardless of their size or species.



Appearance



Scorpions range in length from two to twenty centimetres. Enabling them to



camouflage with their environment, most desert species are yellowish or light brown.



Aside from their iconic stingers, most people readily associate scorpions with their



powerful claws which play a crucial part when they hunt.



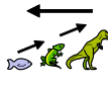
Habitat



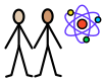
The majority of species of scorpion live in the desert, but they also can be found in



grasslands, caves and forests, within all continents except Antarctica. Despite living



in harsh climates, scorpions have evolved ways to survive their tough environments.



Scientists believe they have developed the ability slow down their metabolism which

allows them to survive on as little as one insect per month. They are also able to shelter



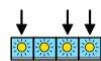
from the sun and heat for extended periods of time, using only small amounts of oxygen



when burrowed into the sand.



Diet



A scorpion's primary method of hunting is through using its tail, which is normally



arched over its back. At its tip hangs a sharp, hollow stinger, through which poison is



squeezed to paralyze prey. If given shortly after the sting, then medicine may be



used to stop the effects of the venom in humans. In order to help them grasp their



prey, scorpions use their serrated claws, ensuring their victims cannot escape. The



majority of their diet is made up of insects, spiders, small rodents and occasionally



even snakes.



Zoologists at the University of Texas have discovered that scorpions also possess a



special, feather-like pair of organs - called pectines - which they use to sense even the






smallest of movements around them. This allows them to effectively track down and hunt







their prey, either above or below the surface. It also warns scorpions of possible

dangers, such as other bigger hunters.

Did you know?

Some people believe that   works as an  effective repellent for a  variety of insects, including  mosquitos.

Fun Fact!

Scorpions  have an acute  sense of smell so keen they can locate and dig up  lizard eggs  buried up to twenty centimetres deep in sand.