

Vale Middle School Reading Article

Flying Cockroaches! Heat Sends Pests Soaring (920L)

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the CLOSE reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.

Step 1: Skim the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

Step 2: Number the paragraphs. **Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer's strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

Step 3: A final quick read noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment. Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.

Student _____ Class Period _____

Flying Cockroaches! Heat Sends Pests Soaring



The summer heat is causing cockroaches to take the skies.

Summer weather can make for hot, sticky and uncomfortable days. And if staying cool and keeping hydrated aren't enough to worry about, heat waves could cause cockroaches to take to the skies. Yes, you read that right. Flying cockroaches.

“Cockroaches, like all insects, are cold-blooded, meaning their activity rate increases with temperature,” said Jules Silverman, an entomologist and professor at North Carolina State University, in an interview with Live Science. (Cold-blooded creatures are ectothermic, which means they depend on external heat to keep their

*Notes on my thoughts,
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bodies warm.)

This also means that the species of cockroach that are able to fly (and most of them are capable) are probably more likely to do so in warmer places, said Silverman.

If you think that flying cockroaches are especially horrific, you probably live somewhere with a colder climate and a denser human population. Flying cockroaches in the subways of New York have garnered some headlines, but “flight of the cockroach” is not so common up north, said Michael Bentley, staff entomologist for the National Pest Management Association. People in the southern states are likely to miss what all of the fuss is about. “Down in Florida, they fly a lot more,” Bentley told Live Science. “They have to cover a greater distance to find food.”

In big cities, these insects have ample access to food that doesn’t require aerial travel. As a result, the muscles the roaches use to fly aren’t as primed. Sweltering summer heat, however, can give them enough energy to spread their wings. They may fly for various reasons, including to find mates, to find food or to escape a predator (or a stomping foot).

No matter where you live, don’t expect cockroaches to fill the skies. They aren’t exactly ace flyers. “It’s relatively controlled, but not as graceful as something like a butterfly,” said Bentley. What they do is more of a controlled glide, although their wings do flap. The distance and heights they reach are more akin to those of a cricket than a bird, according to Bentley.

Another important point, said Silverman, is that the cockroaches with which many people are most intimately acquainted can’t fly. The small roaches that often live in homes, called German cockroaches, have wings, but they are unable to get airborne. American cockroaches, a less common and much bigger pest, can fly.

If you have a run-in with a flying roach, don’t get too concerned: Although it’s unnerving, they aren’t trying to attack you. “There is nothing dangerous about flying cockroaches, other than an irrational fear driving people to distraction,” said Silverman.

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

This article addresses the following CCSS ELA Standards in addition to those noted.

7/8.W.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

7/8.L.1,2,3,4,5,6,

7/8.SL.1,2,3,4,5,6

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Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.

1. *List three scientific reasons cockroaches may fly.*
2. *Briefly, describe a cockroach's flight ability as compared to other insects.*
3. *Define **hydrated** as used in the article.*
4. *What dangers to humans are associated with flying cockroaches?*
5. *Define **ectothermic** as used in the text.*

7/8.RI.4,5

Answer each question in one or more complete sentences and by providing complete explanations.

1. *Why are flying cockroaches more common in warmer states as compared to cooler areas? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.*
2. *Explain the use of quotations by the author in the second paragraph.*

7/8.RI.1,4,5

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3. Summarize the text using a one-sentence money summary format. (Note: You have \$2 to spend. Words cost 10 cents each. "A, an, the" are free.)

7/8.RI.2

4. According to cockroachworld.org, "Cockroaches can run up to three miles in an hour, which means they can spread germs and bacteria throughout a home very quickly." Based on this information, how many feet can a cockroach travel in an hour? How many feet can one travel in a minute? Show your work. Provide a brief explanation. Answer in complete sentences.

7/8.RI.1.3.5.8