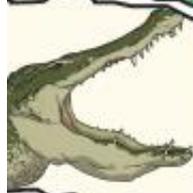


Gold reading

Deadly Animals and Creatures



Humans are one of the deadliest animals on the planet. Humans have shown aggression towards each other and to other animals, used deadly weapons and have proved to be very destructive to our planet and the animals and plants that inhabit it. Many animals even actively avoid us.

Which Are the Deadliest to Humans?

Mosquitoes cause the most human deaths each year, making them the smallest but also the deadliest creature on Earth. Mosquitoes carry dangerous viruses and parasites, such as malaria, yellow fever and dengue fever, to an estimated 700 million people every year! Not all snakes are dangerous but more than 450 species are venomous. The Echis causes the most snakebite deaths. Snakebites are often not reported but it is estimated that between 420,000 and 1.8 million snakebites happen each year. Dog bites cause over 90% of rabies infections in humans. Tsetse flies are also called tik-tik flies and spread the tropical disease called sleeping sickness.

Big Facts!

According to Bill Gates's 'World's Deadliest Animals list', published in 2014, these are the deadliest animals, ranked by number of human deaths they cause each year:

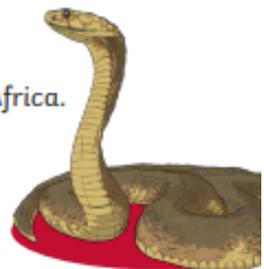
 1	Mosquitoes cause approximately 725,000 deaths a year.	 4	Dogs (that carry rabies) cause approximately 25,000 deaths a year.
 2	Humans cause approximately 475,000 deaths a year.	 5	Tsetse flies (that carry sleeping sickness) cause approximately 10,000 deaths a year.
 3	Snakes cause approximately 50,000 deaths a year.	 6	Assassin bugs (that carry Chagas disease) cause approximately 10,000 deaths a year.

5. Tsetse flies. Photo by Alan R Walker (commons.wikimedia.org) is licensed under CC BY 3.0.

 <p>7</p>	<p>Freshwater snails cause approximately 10,000 deaths a year.</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>Lions cause approximately 100 deaths a year.</p>
 <p>8</p>	<p>Ascaris roundworms cause approximately 2500 deaths a year.</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>Elephants cause approximately 100 deaths a year.</p>
 <p>9</p>	<p>Tapeworms cause approximately 2000 deaths a year.</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>Wolves cause approximately 10 deaths a year.</p>
 <p>10</p>	<p>Crocodiles cause approximately 1000 deaths a year.</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>Sharks cause approximately 10 deaths a year.</p>
 <p>11</p>	<p>Hippopotamuses cause approximately 500 deaths a year.</p>	<p>9. Tapeworm. Photo by Mogana Das Murtey and Patchamuthu Ramasamy (commons.wikimedia.org) is licensed under CC BY 3.0.</p>	

Where Do These Animals Live?

-  Most malaria-related deaths caused by mosquitoes happen on the continent of Africa.
-  Snakebites and deaths caused by snakes are most common in countries in Asia.
-  Dog attacks in Europe are very rare.
-  Most rabies-related human deaths happen across countries in Asia and Africa.
-  The UK was declared rabies-free in 1922.
-  Tsetse flies can be found across countries in Africa.



Questions

1. Which creature spreads diseases such as malaria? Tick one.

- tapeworms
- assassin bugs
- mosquitoes
- roundworms

2. Underline **one** word that means that animals stay away from us.

Many animals even actively avoid us.

3. How many species of snake are venomous?

4. Look at the section called **Where Do These Animals Live?**

Find and copy one word that is a synonym for 'announced.'

5. Fill in the missing words.

Snakebites are often not reported but it is _____ that between 420,000 and 1.8 _____ snakebites happen each year.

6. Many of the creatures listed in this text cause deaths indirectly by spreading diseases. Can you suggest any ways that this could be prevented?

7. Look at the number of deaths associated with sharks compared to hipopotamuses. Does this surprise you? Why?

8. How do you predict the number of deaths shared in this text will change over the next decade? Why?
