

Ladybugs



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

Ladybugs are also called lady beetles or ladybirds. Their round, shiny backs are shaped like a dome. Many are red or orange with black spots.

A ladybug lays small yellow eggs on the underside of a leaf, standing on end in clusters of 10 to 50. She lays them near aphids, tiny soft insects that are pests on plants.

The eggs hatch in three to five days. The larva looks nothing like its parents: it is black with orange spots, like a tiny alligator with six legs. For two to three weeks it eats aphids, about 400 of them. Then it becomes a pupa, and seven to ten days later an adult ladybug comes out.

Gardeners are glad to see ladybugs, because one adult may eat more than 5,000 aphids in its life. In autumn, they crawl into sheltered places for the winter, sometimes hundreds together.

1. What color are a ladybug's eggs?

2. How many aphids does one larva eat before it becomes a pupa?

3. Why does a ladybug lay her eggs near aphids?

4. Would you want ladybug larvae in your garden? Why?

Answer key

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1. What color are a ladybug's eggs?
Yellow.
2. How many aphids does one larva eat before it becomes a pupa?
About 400.
3. Why does a ladybug lay her eggs near aphids?
So the larvae have aphids to eat as soon as they hatch.
4. Would you want ladybug larvae in your garden? Why?
Sample answer: I would keep them, because each larva eats hundreds of aphids, and aphids are pests on the plants.