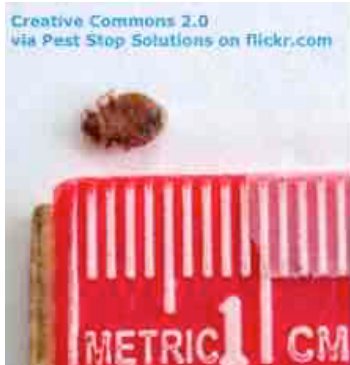


France battles to stop spread of bedbugs

2nd October 2023



France is coming under attack from a tiny menace – the bedbug. Many videos have been posted on social media with footage of the bugs crawling around in trains on the Paris metro. Sightings have also been reported in cinemas, museums, and even at Paris' Charles

de Gaulle airport. Emmanuel Gregoire, the deputy mayor of Paris, admitted there was a proliferation of the minute creatures. He reassured people by saying his government was taking action to deal with the "widespread" rise in bedbugs. He also said: "You have to understand that in reality, no one is safe. Obviously, there are risk factors, but, you can catch bedbugs anywhere in the world and bring them home."

France's bedbug problem is not new. Three years ago, the government launched an anti-bedbug campaign to reduce the incidences of infestations in cities. However, despite introducing several measures, the numbers of the blood-sucking insects have surged. A new initiative is being introduced to cut bug populations, ahead of the Paris Olympics in 2024. This includes hiring fumigation companies to help exterminate the bugs. Mr Gregoire said: "There is no threat to the Olympic Games." He said: "Bedbugs existed before and they will exist afterwards." A sanitation expert agreed. She said the problem was, "an emerging phenomenon...almost everywhere in the world".

Sources: cnn.com / theguardian.com / reuters.com

Writing

Bedbugs are important creatures. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

France / menace / bedbugs / cinemas / airport / proliferation / creatures / risk / problem / campaign / infestation / insects / initiative / Olympics / sanitation / expert

True / False

- 1) People posted videos on social media of bedbugs attacking people. T / F
- 2) Bedbugs are arriving in France through international airports. T / F
- 3) Paris' deputy mayor said there was no bedbug problem. T / F
- 4) Paris' deputy mayor said bedbugs are all over the world. T / F
- 5) France had an anti-bedbug drive three years ago. T / F
- 6) The article called bedbugs 'blood-sucking' insects. T / F
- 7) Paris' deputy mayor said bedbugs would be a problem at the Olympics. T / F
- 8) A sanitation expert said bedbugs were decreasing worldwide. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. menace | a. drive |
| 2. crawling | b. rapid increase |
| 3. proliferation | c. actions |
| 4. minute | d. strategy |
| 5. rise | e. occurrence |
| 6. campaign | f. creeping |
| 7. measures | g. hike |
| 8. initiative | h. kill |
| 9. exterminate | i. nuisance |
| 10. phenomenon | j. tiny |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think about bedbugs?
- c) What other blood-sucking insects do you know of?
- d) How might bedbugs be a problem for the Paris Olympics?
- e) What's the best way to exterminate bedbugs?
- f) What purpose do bedbugs serve in the natural world?
- g) What do you know about bedbug bites?
- h) What questions would you like to ask someone with bedbug bites?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. France is coming under attack from | a. sucking insects |
| 2. footage | b. minute creatures |
| 3. there was a proliferation of the | c. exterminate the bugs |
| 4. in reality, | d. factors |
| 5. risk | e. an anti-bedbug campaign |
| 6. the government launched | f. being introduced |
| 7. reduce the incidences of | g. no one is safe |
| 8. numbers of the blood- | h. of the bugs |
| 9. A new initiative is | i. infestations |
| 10. fumigation companies to help | j. a tiny menace |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about bedbugs?
- What harm can bedbugs cause?
- Do you have any experiences of bedbugs?
- How can we deal with bedbugs?
- What bugs do you like and dislike?
- What would you do if your bed was infested with bedbugs?
- Why has there been a rise in bedbugs around the world?
- What do bedbugs look like?

Spelling

- under attack from a tiny ae necm
- et ago fo of the bugs crawling around
- the yp u det mayor of Paris
- a fri pl tin are oo of the minute creatures
- He es ad ur sre people
- there are risk rs a co ft
- the sec nin c dei of infestations
- numbers of the blood-sucking insects have ur es gd
- This includes hiring ut io fm g ani companies
- help rx t ne ate i em the bugs
- A na ti is on ta expert agreed
- an emerging neh op m ne on

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. f	3. b	4. j	5. g
6. a	7. c	8. d	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Bedbugs

You think bedbugs are the most interesting bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): ladybugs, stink bugs or fleas.

Role B – Ladybugs - UK (Ladybirds - USA)

You think ladybugs are the most interesting bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): bedbugs, stink bugs or fleas.

Role C – Stink Bugs

You think stink bugs are the most interesting bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): ladybugs, bedbugs or fleas.

Role D – Fleas

You think fleas are the most interesting bugs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their bugs. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): ladybugs, stink bugs or bedbugs.

Speaking – Bugs

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting bugs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| • Stink bugs | • Bedbugs |
| • Ticks | • Ladybirds / Ladybugs |
| • Spiders | • Fleas |
| • Mosquitoes | • Centipedes |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.