

## More and more people are eating insects

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In the past decade, bugs have become a familiar sight on dinner tables. One reason for this is they are a great source of protein. Another reason is that people are concerned about the environment. Traditional livestock farming is detrimental to the environment as it

is generally unsustainable. Raising insects is much more environmentally friendly. One kilogram of insect protein needs about 10 per cent of the feed, water and land used to produce the same amount of beef. Experts say farming insects is better for the environment than raising livestock. A final reason we may have to eat insects is because of the rise in the world's population. By 2050 this is expected to be 9.8 billion, up from the current 7.7 billion.

The insect farming industry is growing quickly. There are hundreds of companies worldwide creating meals made from bugs. Many supermarkets around the world now stock food made from insects. There are vending machines in Tokyo, Japan where you can purchase a can of insect snacks. The menu includes dried tarantula and scorpions. However, not everyone is excited by the idea of insects as food. An Israeli insect farmer, Dror Tamir, says there is a "yuck factor" to the thought of eating insects. He said people will get used to the idea and will find insects tasty. He said: "I am convinced it will soon be widely accepted, just like eating raw fish in sushi was embraced."

Sources: [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [sunlive.co.nz](http://sunlive.co.nz)

### Writing

Insects are the best solution to food shortages. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the past decade / dinner tables / protein / livestock / beef / experts / insects / rise / farming / worldwide / supermarkets / snacks / tarantula / scorpions / yuck / raw fish

### True / False

- 1) The article says more insects are crawling across dinner tables. T / F
- 2) Insect farming requires just 10% of the resources needed for beef. T / F
- 3) Traditional livestock is more environmentally friendly than insects. T / F
- 4) The global population will be over 10 billion by 2050. T / F
- 5) The article says hundreds of companies are making food from insects. T / F
- 6) You can buy tarantula snacks from vending machines in Tokyo. T / F
- 7) An Israeli insect farmer said there is a "yuck factor" to eating insects. T / F
- 8) The insect farmer said insects are tastier than sushi. T / F

### Synonym Match

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

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>decade</b>      | a. harmful   |
| 2. <b>concerned</b>   | b. certain   |
| 3. <b>detrimental</b> | c. rearing   |
| 4. <b>raising</b>     | d. present   |
| 5. <b>current</b>     | e. supply    |
| 6. <b>growing</b>     | f. 10 years  |
| 7. <b>stock</b>       | g. buy       |
| 8. <b>purchase</b>    | h. accepted  |
| 9. <b>convinced</b>   | i. worried   |
| 10. <b>embraced</b>   | j. expanding |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the idea of insects as food?
- b) How will eating insects help the planet?
- c) Will insects become a familiar sight on your dinner table?
- d) Will traditional livestock farming eventually end?
- e) What do you think of the idea of insect burgers?
- f) Would you eat food from insects if it didn't look like insects?
- g) How worried are you about overpopulation?
- h) What advice do you have for people who don't want to eat insects?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. In the past decade, bugs have    | a. thought of eating insects |
| 2. they are a great source          | b. to the environment        |
| 3. livestock farming is detrimental | c. is growing quickly        |
| 4. better for the environment       | d. by the idea               |
| 5. because of the rise in the       | e. of protein                |
| 6. The insect farming industry      | f. than raising livestock    |
| 7. vending                          | g. widely accepted           |
| 8. not everyone is excited          | h. become a familiar sight   |
| 9. there is a "yuck factor" to the  | i. machines                  |
| 10. I am convinced it will soon be  | j. world's population        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What insects can we eat?
- What kinds of dishes can we make with insects?
- Have you ever seen food made from insects in supermarkets?
- What would you prefer - a tarantula or a scorpion dish?
- What do you think of the 'yuck factor' of eating insects?
- Do you think eating bugs is healthier than eating beef?
- What questions would you like to ask the insect farmers?

## Spelling

- in the past edacde
- bugs have become a mfliaiar sight
- traditional vseitlcok farming
- rdeimtnteal to the environment
- one kilogram of insect rotpien
- up from the urrcent 7.7 billion
- The insect farming ndustiry is growing quickly
- ednving machines
- urchapse a can of insect snacks
- dried aattnrula and scorpions
- I am ncnivcoed it will soon be widely accepted
- raw fish in sushi was mcreabed

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Tarantulas

You think tarantulas are best for the dinner table. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fitting of these (and why): ants, worms or locusts.

### Role B – Ants

You think ants are best for the dinner table. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fitting of these (and why): tarantulas, worms or locusts.

### Role C – Worms

You think worms are best for the dinner table. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fitting of these (and why): ants, tarantulas or locusts.

### Role D – Locusts

You think locusts are best for the dinner table. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least fitting of these (and why): ants, worms or tarantulas.

## Speaking – Insects

Rank these with your partner. Put the insects you would most hate to see on the dinner table at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| • Tarantulas | • Ladybirds   |
| • Ants       | • Locusts     |
| • Worms      | • Butterflies |
| • Bees       | • Beetles     |

### Answers – True False

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