

Name _____



The Appearance of a Stink Bug

The stink bug is a fascinating insect that stands out because of its unique shape and features. Its body is often described as shield-shaped, with a broad, flat back that tapers toward the head and tail. This distinct shape makes it easy to identify among other insects.

Size and Weight

Stink bugs are relatively small insects. Most stink bugs measure about half an inch to three-quarters of an inch long, roughly the size of a small coin. Despite their sturdy appearance, they are very light, weighing only a fraction of a gram. Their lightweight bodies make it easy for them to move quickly and even take flight.

Color and Patterns

The color of a stink bug depends on its species. Some stink bugs are green, blending well with leaves and plants, while others are brown, helping them hide on tree bark or in the soil. Certain stink bugs also display interesting patterns, such as spots or stripes, adding to their unique appearance. These patterns can help them camouflage and avoid predators.

Unique Features

One of the most notable features of a stink bug is its piercing-sucking mouthpart, which looks like a tiny straw. This specialized mouth allows it to pierce plant stems and fruits to suck out the juices. Stink bugs also have six legs and two long, thin antennae, which they use to sense their environment.

Stink bugs have wings, although they are not always visible when the insect is at rest. When ready to fly, the stink bug opens its wings, revealing a hidden layer that is often brightly colored, surprising any predators nearby.

Why They Stand Out

What really sets the stink bug apart is its defense mechanism: its smell. When threatened, stink bugs release a strong, unpleasant odor from glands near their back legs. This smell discourages predators and serves as a warning to stay away.

The stink bug may not be the most popular insect, but its unique features make it an interesting part of the natural world.