

"The Spider Woman" Quiz

Directions: Read the article "The Spider Woman" in the November/December 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. How do you think the manager of Goodwill probably felt when Greta Binford said she wanted to hunt spiders in the basement?

- a. angry
- b. surprised
- c. scared
- d. excited

2. What does the word "potent" mean in the sentence "Loxosceles laeta is a cousin of the brown recluse, only larger and with more potent venom."

- a. harmless
- b. painful
- c. weak
- d. powerful

3. What is one reason that Greta Binford studies spider venom?

- a. to find better treatments for bites
- b. to make artificial venom in the laboratory
- c. to compare it with snake venom
- d. to discover which spider is the most poisonous

4. How did the spiders first arrive in Los Angeles?

- a. They crawled up from Mexico.
- b. A criminal released them there on purpose.
- c. They arrived in costume crates from Brazil.
- d. They evolved there from prehistoric times.

5. What does the author suggest about how people reacted to the spiders in 1969?

- a. They didn't take the threat seriously.
- b. They overreacted.
- c. They took risks handling the spiders.
- d. They used too much pesticide.

6. Which line could make you conclude that perhaps people were not in immediate danger?

- a. "50 Deadly spiders found!"
- b. "The great spider hunt of 1969 ended as such scares usually do."
- c. "No bites had been reported."
- d. "Yet the spiders remained."

7. How did Binford's expectations differ from what she actually found in the basement of the Goodwill?

- a. She found fewer spiders than she expected.
- b. She found more spiders than she expected.
- c. She discovered that the spiders had spread all over Los Angeles.
- d. She found only female spiders.

8. How many species of spiders have been found around the world?

- a. 40,000
- b. 20,000
- c. 24,000
- d. 400,000

9. Why did the author write this article?

- a. to encourage people to get pet spiders
- b. to show how scary spiders are
- c. to tell about the dangers spiders actually pose
- d. to present a profile of Greta Binford's life

10. Even though many spiders are harmless, it is still smart to be _____ around them.

- a. reckless
- b. tempting
- c. cautious
- d. friendly