I am a “kissing bug”, my real name is Triatoma. I have many relatives in my Reduviidae family. My nickname is the kissing bug because I like to leave kisses (but really bites) around the mouth or eyes.

I am an insect with 6 legs about the size of a nickel. My family and I are quite similar, we have a long black or dark brown oval shaped body and black or dark brown and orange or yellow stripes that look like a tiny snake wrapped around the edge of my torso. We also have a small cone shaped head and two bulging eyes on the side of our tiny heads and two antennas in the front. We also have two large wings that are tucked on our backs. Our wings let us fly at night when we go out to eat.

I live in all sorts of places like under porches, in wood piles, in rock piles, crawl spaces, under cement, and around dog bedding outside.

Help Puppy avoid the kissing bug and find its dog house…

(1) ROCK PILE
(2) CRAWL SPACE
(3) UNDER CEMENT
(4) UNDER PORCH
(5) DOG BEDDING
(6) WOOD PILE
I live in all sorts of places like under porches, in wood piles, crawl spaces, under cement, and around dog bedding outside.

Help Puppy avoid the kissing bug and find its dog house…

(1) ROCK PILE
(2) CRAWL SPACE
(3) UNDER CEMENT
(4) UNDER PORCH
(5) DOG BEDDING
(6) WOOD PILE
Chagas disease is a preventable infection caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi* and spread by infected insects called triatomine or kissing bugs. The initial infection usually does not cause severe symptoms and is often not even diagnosed.

After years of chronic infection, some people develop heart diseases such as abnormal rhythms, heart failure, and risk of sudden death. Chagas disease can also cause gastrointestinal problems, such as severe constipation and difficulty swallowing.
AVOID getting sick or infected with germs and parasites like *T. cruzi* that cause Chagas disease

REMEMBER to…

1. Always wash your __ __ __ __, especially if you have been outside playing.

2. Don’t rub your __ __ __ __ with dirty hands.

3. Don’t stick your dirty hands in your __ __ __ __.

4. Don’t pick up __ __ __ __ unless you know what they are because they can make you sick.

To protect yourself and your family from kissing bugs and *T. cruzi*:

- Seal cracks and gaps around windows, walls, roofs, and doors. Cover holes that lead to attics, and crawl spaces.

- Remove wood piles, brush, and rock piles near your home.

- Use screens on doors and windows and repair any torn screens.

- Keep your pets inside especially at night. Make sure your pet’s area is clean, and check for bugs.
Find and circle the words in the puzzle below…

**CHAGAS DISEASE SYMPTOMS**

- **DIARRHEA**
- **HEADACHE**
- **FEVER**
- **LOSS OF APPETITE**
- **BODYACHES**
- **RASH**
- **HEART PROBLEMS**
- **INTESTINAL PROBLEMS**
- **HEART PROBLEMS**
- **DIARRHEA**
- **VOMITING**
- **SWOLLENGLANDS**
- **SWOLLEN EYES**
- **SWOLLEN EYES**
- **HEADACHE**
- **FATIGUE**
- **FEVER**
Color the two sides of the face... one side normal and the other with the bite of the Triatomine bug.

**Normal Face**

It is very important to wash your hands whenever you come inside from playing outside, especially if you have a dog, or live on a farm with other animals.

**Bitten Face**

Another important thing to remember is not to rub your eyes or put your dirty fingers in your mouth because there are some very mean bacteria and parasites like *T. cruzi* that can cause a lot of harm like Chagas disease.
The Facts about Kissing Bugs

- Kissing bugs don’t really kiss… they bite around your eyes and lips.
- Kissing bugs can make you really sick. To protect your family keep the house and yard clean.
- If you get bitten by a dark bug with orange stripes, look for swelling on your face or arms and legs.
- *T. cruzi* could also infect your pet or other animal.
- If you have fever, feel tired and just want to stay in bed… tell your parents, then go to the doctor and get it checked.

Look out for me! If you see me, don’t touch me! Tell your mom or dad, they can catch me and call (915) 747-6891 or email: ramaldonado@utep.edu

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