

Once the female has copulated, she climbs with her full count of eight legs to the tip of a protruding branch of any shrub in order either to fall onto small mammals who run by underneath or to let herself be brushed off the branch by large ones. The eyeless creature finds the way to its lookout with the help of a general sensitivity to light

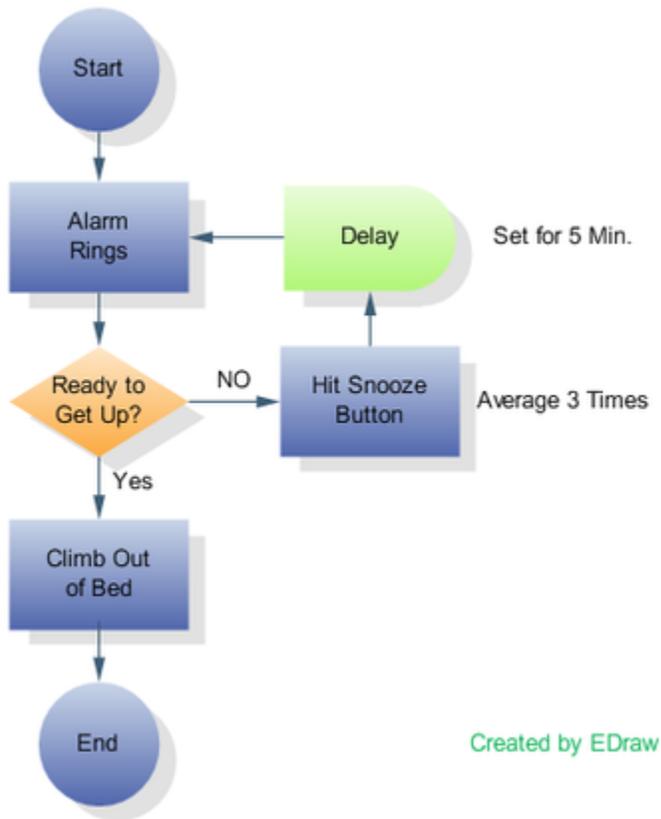
The blind and deaf bandit becomes aware of the approach of its prey through the sense of smell. The odor of butyric acid, which is given off by the skin glands of all mammals, gives the tick the signal to leave its watch post and leap off. If it then falls onto something warm—which its fine sense of temperature will tell it—then it has reached its prey, the warm-blooded animal, and needs only use its sense of touch to find a spot as free of hair as possible in order to bore past its own head into the skin tissue of the prey.

Now, the tick pumps a stream of warm blood slowly into itself. Experiments with artificial membranes and liquids other than blood have demonstrated that the tick has no sense of taste, for, after boring through the membrane, it takes in any liquid, so long as it has the right temperature. If, after sensing the butyric acid smell, the tick falls onto something cold, then it has missed its prey and must climb back up to its lookout post. The tick's hearty blood meal is also its last meal, for it now has nothing more to do than fall to the ground, lay its eggs, and die.

— von Uexküll, Jacob (1934: 44-45) **A Stroll through the Worlds of Animals and Men. English translation by O'Neal, Joseph (2010) University of Minnesota Press.**

1. Brainstorm and draft a simple flow chart to describe the life of the adult tick. Start with the tick waiting on the branch of a tree. End with the death of the tick.

Use the following as your model. Start and end with circles. Rectangles are process boxes and the diamond is a decision box.



2. Compose an original four line poem called *The Tick* consisting of two sequential rhyming couplets. Use the opening stanza of William Blake's famous 1794 poem *The Tyger* as your model:

**Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?**

3. Address with your partner the following Knowledge Questions:

- **To what extent does the tick's sensory input "Map" correspond to the actual "Territory" of its environment and survival needs?**
- **To what extent can meaningful parallels be made between tick and male fig wasp *Umwelts*?**
- **To what extent can meaningful parallels be made between tick and human sense perception?**