



Imagine a tiny superhero, with a shiny armor-like skin, that's always on a mission – meet the dung beetle! These little creatures are known for their sturdy, hard outer shell that shines like armor under the sunlight. With six legs, two large antennae for sensory purposes, and a pair of wings hidden under their hard shell, they are well-equipped for their environment. Despite their small size, often just a few centimeters long, these beetles are incredibly strong and can carry loads over a thousand times their body weight!



Following the trail from our strong little friend, let's delve into their unique diet. Dung beetles have a rather interesting and unusual diet - they eat dung, or animal poop! This not only helps them stay nourished, but also plays a vital role in maintaining the health of our environment by recycling nutrients and controlling parasites and pests. Interestingly, not all dung beetles eat the same kind of poo – some prefer that of herbivores, while others opt for omnivores' or carnivores' droppings.

From their diet, let's roll on to their fascinating life cycle and habitat. These beetles lay their eggs in or around dung, providing a perfect food source for their larvae once they hatch. They can be found almost everywhere around the globe, from the hottest deserts to the chilliest grasslands, making them one of the most widespread animals on Earth. Depending on the species, the life cycle of a dung beetle can vary from two months to a couple of years!

Now that we've delved into their lifestyle, let's explore dung beetles' relationships with other animals and humans. Despite their unappealing diet, dung beetles play a crucial role in our ecosystem, helping to recycle waste and enrich the soil, which benefits humans and other animals alike. Did you know that an elephant's dung can provide food for up to 16,000 dung beetles in just two hours? So, to circle back to our tiny superheroes, they are not just fascinating creatures, but also diligent recyclers, making our world a cleaner,

healthier place!





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do dung beetles eat to stay nourished?
 - A. Fruits and vegetables.
 - B. Dung or animal poop.
 - C. Insects and small animals.
 - D. Flowers and nectar.

- 2) How many dung beetles can an elephant's poop feed in just two hours?
 - A. Up to 100 dung beetles
 - B. Up to 10,000 dung beetles
 - C. Up to 1,000 dung beetles
 - D. Up to 16,000 dung beetles

- 3) Where do dung beetles lay their eggs?
 - A. In trees and plants.
 - B. In the soil.
 - C. In or around dung.
 - D. In their nests or burrows.

- 4) How many legs does a dung beetle have?
 - A. Six legs
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- 5) What kind of shell does a dung beetle have?
 - A. Soft, jelly-like shell
 - B. Rough, scaly shell
 - C. Shiny, armor-like shell
 - D. Smooth, wooden shell

- 6) What is the role of dung beetles in maintaining the health of the environment?
 - A. Spreading diseases and infections.
 - B. Causing pollution in the ecosystem.
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- 7) Where can dung beetles be found around the globe?
 - A. Only in wetlands and swamps.
 - B. Almost everywhere, from deserts to grasslands.
 - C. Only in forests and mountains.
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- 8) How long can the life cycle of a dung beetle be?
 - A. Less than a month.
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- 9) Dung beetles are also known for helping to control which of the following?
 - A. Disease outbreaks
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- 10) What role do dung beetles play in the ecosystem?
 - A. Eating plants and destroying vegetation.
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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "I eat fruits and vegetables for nourishment, just like you guys."
- 12) "I can't survive in the desert or cold grasslands."
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- 17) "Not all dung is the same, I prefer dung from herbivores, but some other dung beetles like it from omnivores or carnivores."
- 18) "I only eat the dung of carnivores."
- 19) "I prefer to eat fresh fruits."
- 20) "I lay eggs on trees, so the babies can eat leaves when they hatch."
- 21) "Our life cycle is always a couple of years long."
- 22) "I thrive in many habitats, from the warm sands of deserts to the cool surfaces of grasslands."
- 23) "What some may find gross, I find nutritious - I eat animal dung!"
- 24) "Elephant dung is like a buffet to us. It can feed up to 16,000 of us for two hours!"
- 25) "I'm not too large. Usually I'm only a few centimeters long."
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Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 29) Dung beetles live everywhere around the globe, from deserts to grasslands.
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- 32) It's amazing how small beetles like dung beetles can carry weights thousands of times their size.
- 33) Dung beetles have wings that are hidden under their hard shell.
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- 39) Dung beetles are found in both deserts and grasslands.
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- 67) Some dung beetles have strong horns on their heads to fight off other beetles. What could be the purpose of these horns?
- A. The horns help dung beetles defend their dung from being stolen.
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- 68) Dung beetles can roll up to 50 times their own body weight in dung. What does this imply about dung beetles?
- A. All beetles can roll items 50 times their weight.
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- 69) Some dung beetles eat only the dung of certain animals. What might this indicate about these beetles?
- A. Dung beetles are vegetarian.
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- 70) Dung beetles can be found in grasslands, forests, deserts, and backyards. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about where dung beetles live?
- A. Dung beetles can adapt to various habitats.
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Dung Beetles

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____ 51. _____
2. _____ 27. _____ 52. _____
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Dung Beetles

Name: **Answer Key**

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1. | B | 26. | Not | 51. | D |
| 2. | D | 27. | Would | 52. | A |
| 3. | C | 28. | Would | 53. | C |
| 4. | A | 29. | fact | 54. | exclamatory |
| 5. | C | 30. | opinion | 55. | imperative |
| 6. | D | 31. | fact | 56. | interrogative |
| 7. | B | 32. | opinion | 57. | exclamatory |
| 8. | B | 33. | fact | 58. | declarative |
| 9. | D | 34. | opinion | 59. | interrogative |
| 10. | D | 35. | fact | 60. | declarative |
| 11. | Not | 36. | fact | 61. | interrogative |
| 12. | Not | 37. | opinion | 62. | declarative |
| 13. | Would | 38. | opinion | 63. | imperative |
| 14. | Would | 39. | true | 64. | exclamatory |
| 15. | Not | 40. | false | 65. | imperative |
| 16. | Would | 41. | true | 66. | B |
| 17. | Would | 42. | false | 67. | A |
| 18. | Not | 43. | true | 68. | D |
| 19. | Not | 44. | false | 69. | D |
| 20. | Not | 45. | false | 70. | A |
| 21. | Not | 46. | false | | |
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| 23. | Would | 48. | true | | |
| 24. | Would | 49. | B | | |
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