



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. Insects and small animals.
 - B. Dung or animal poop.
 - C. Flowers and nectar.
 - D. Fruits and vegetables.

- 2) How many dung beetles can an elephant's poop feed in just two hours?
 - A. Up to 10,000 dung beetles
 - B. Up to 100 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 the soil.
 - B. In their nests or burrows.
 - C. In trees and plants.
 - D. In or around dung.

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

- 6) What is the role of dung beetles in maintaining the health of the environment?
 - A. Causing pollution in the ecosystem.
 - B. Recycling nutrients and controlling parasites and pests.
 - C. Harming plants and trees.
 - D. Spreading diseases and infections.

- 7) Where can dung beetles be found around the globe?
 - A. Almost everywhere, from deserts to grasslands.
 - B. Only in colder regions like the Arctic.
 - C. Only in forests and mountains.
 - D. Only in wetlands and swamps.

- 8) How long can the life cycle of a dung beetle be?
 - A. Only a few weeks.
 - B. From two months to a couple of years.
 - C. Over five years.
 - D. Less than a month.

- 9) Dung beetles are also known for helping to control which of the following?
 - A. Disease outbreaks
 - B. Parasites and pests
 - C. Weather patterns
 - D. Animal population size

- 10) What role do dung beetles play in the ecosystem?
 - A. Causing pollution and waste accumulation.
 - B. 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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- 14) "Even though I may look small, I can carry things that are a thousand times heavier than me!"
- 15) "I don't have wings."
- 16) "When I lay eggs, I hide them in or around dung so when my babies hatch, they'll have plenty to eat."
- 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."
- 26) "My eggs will have to find their own food."
- 27) "I help make the world a cleaner place by turning waste into valuable nutrients for the soil."
- 28) "My shell isn't just for show, it protects my wings and helps me survive."

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.
- 30) Dung beetles have the most interesting diet among all insects.
- 31) Dung beetles eat animal poop.
- 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.
- 34) It's amazing how fast dung beetles can clean up a mess of animal poop.
- 35) Dung beetles lay their eggs in or around dung.
- 36) Dung beetles are incredibly strong and can carry loads over a thousand times their body weight.
- 37) Dung beetles are cool because they eat dung and help the environment.
- 38) Having shiny armor-like skin makes dung beetles look like little superheroes.



- 62) Dung beetles eat poop from other animals.
- 63) Always respect the hard work of dung beetles.
- 64) Look, there are dung beetles in our backyard!
- 65) Please don't disturb the dung beetles while they are rolling their dung balls.

Determine which choice is the conclusion that can be drawn from the statement.

- 66) Dung beetles use the sun, the moon, and even the Milky Way to navigate. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about dung beetles?
- A. Dung beetles roam randomly. B. Dung beetles have advanced navigational skills.
- C. Dung beetles do not move around. D. Dung beetles can only navigate during the day.
- 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. B. The horns help dung beetles fly.
- C. The horns help dung beetles dig holes. D. The horns help dung beetles attract mates.
- 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. B. Dung beetles are the size of the dung balls they roll.
- C. Dung beetles are weak. D. Dung beetles are strong for their size.
- 69) Some dung beetles eat only the dung of certain animals. What might this indicate about these beetles?
- A. Dung beetles are vegetarian. B. All dung beetles eat the same type of dung.
- C. Dung beetles will not eat dung of cows. D. Some dung beetles have specific dietary preferences.
- 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. B. Dung beetles can only live in grasslands or areas with lots of trees.
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Dung Beetles

Name: _____

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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> D </u> |
| 2. <u> D </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> A </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> true </u> | 53. <u> C </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> fact </u> | 54. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> opinion </u> | 55. <u> imperative </u> |
| 6. <u> B </u> | 31. <u> fact </u> | 56. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 7. <u> A </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> | 57. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 8. <u> B </u> | 33. <u> fact </u> | 58. <u> declarative </u> |
| 9. <u> B </u> | 34. <u> opinion </u> | 59. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 10. <u> C </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> declarative </u> |
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