



Imagine you're a tiny creature with a big, scary name like 'earwig'! These little fellows, often no more than an inch long, have a dark brown or black body that is long and slender. They have six legs and a pair of forceps-like pincers on their abdomen, which they use for defense and hunting. Despite their scary name, earwigs are quite harmless and their pincers aren't strong enough to harm a human.



Keeping their pincers busy, earwigs have a varied diet. They munch on a wide range of stuff, from plant debris and ripe fruits to other insects and their eggs. Because of their eating habits, they can be both helpful and harmful to gardeners. They aid in breaking down organic matter, but can also damage crops and ornamental plants.

From munching on plants and insects, let's jump to where these creatures call home. Earwigs are found almost everywhere around the world, but they prefer damp, cool places. They often hide in small, tight crevices during the day and come out at night to feed. You might find them under pots, in mulch, or amidst leaf piles in your garden.



Now that we've visited their home, let's take a peek into their life cycle. Earwigs undergo incomplete metamorphosis, which means they pass through three stages: egg, nymph, and adult. Interestingly, they are one of the few non-social insect species that show maternal care. Mama earwigs guard their eggs and young until they are ready to fend for themselves, which is quite unique in the insect world!

**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What color might the body of an earwig be?
 - A. green
 - B. red
 - C. black
 - D. yellow

- 2) How big are earwigs?
 - A. no more than an inch long
 - B. tiny, like a grain of sand
 - C. several feet long
 - D. half a foot in size

- 3) Are earwigs deadly to humans?
 - A. Sometimes
 - B. No
 - C. Only male earwigs
 - D. Yes

- 4) What is part of the diet of an earwig?
 - A. small rodents
 - B. plant debris
 - C. walnuts
 - D. lumber wood

- 5) How is the maternal care of earwigs?
 - A. Mama earwigs guard their eggs and young
 - B. Mama earwigs eat their young
 - C. Mama earwigs build nests out of twigs for their young
 - D. Mama earwigs leave their eggs alone

- 6) What are the pincers of an earwig used for?
 - A. building nests
 - B. communication
 - C. defense and hunting
 - D. pollination

- 7) Where do earwigs prefer to live?
 - A. damp places
 - B. hot deserts
 - C. grassy plains
 - D. freezing places

- 8) When do earwigs come out to feed?
 - A. In the afternoon
 - B. All the time
 - C. At night
 - D. In the morning

- 9) What is unique about the way earwigs care for their young?
 - A. Earwigs leave their young after they hatch.
 - B. The young earwigs take care of themselves.
 - C. Mama earwigs guard their eggs and young.
 - D. Earwigs don't have young.

- 10) What is the life cycle of an earwig called?
 - A. Complete metamorphosis
 - B. Incomplete metamorphosis
 - C. Adaptable metamorphosis
 - D. Flexible metamorphosis

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).



- 11) "I am a very big creature almost the size of a ruler."
- 12) "My mom doesn't only lay the eggs, she guards them and takes care of us until we can protect ourselves."
- 13) "I abandon my eggs and young ones as soon as they are laid."
- 14) "The moment I'm born, I start fending for myself."
- 15) "Sometimes, I eat tiny insects or their eggs, a bit like a mini predator!"
- 16) "You can find my siblings and me in damp, cool spots, hiding in crevices during the day."
- 17) "I love hot, sunny places."
- 18) "I come out and feed during the day."
- 19) "Don't be fooled by my name, 'earwig', I'm not going to crawl into your ear."
- 20) "I'm pretty hard to spot. Usually I'm only about an inch long."
- 21) "I use my pincers to harm humans."
- 22) "You may find me in your garden, I enjoy munching on your plant debris and ripe fruits."
- 23) "I dislike damp places."
- 24) "I do a bit of both good and bad in gardens, I help breakdown stuff but I can damage some plants too."
- 25) "I'm not helpful to gardeners at all."
- 26) "I only eat other insects."
- 27) "You're unlikely to find me in your garden."
- 28) "I have a pair of forceps-like pincers on my abdomen, but they are not strong enough to hurt you."
- 29) "I am most active at night-time, crawling out of my hiding place to look for food."
- 30) "The interesting fact is, we earwigs are found almost everywhere on the planet."
- 31) "I start off as an egg, then turn into a nymph and finally into an adult like you see now."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 32) Earwigs can be found mostly in damp and cool places.
- 33) Earwigs are extremely scary because of their pincers.
- 34) Earwigs eat different things including plant debris, ripe fruits and other insects.
- 35) The long, slender bodies of earwigs are cool because they set them apart from other insects.
- 36) Earwigs are small, usually not more than an inch long.
- 37) Earwigs are creepy since they come out at night to feed.
- 38) Earwigs most often hide during the day and only come out at night to feed.
- 39) Earwigs have a pair of pincers on their abdomen that they use for defense and hunting.
- 40) It's impressive to see such small creatures like earwigs showing maternal care.
- 41) The variety of food that earwigs eat is something really interesting.

Determine if the statement is true or false.



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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
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Determine if the statement is true or false.



- 66) If you find an earwig in your garden, gently place it back in its natural habitat.
- 67) It's amazing how earwigs help to keep our gardens healthy by eating other insects and plants!
- 68) Share some fun facts about earwigs with your friends.

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

- 69) Despite their name, earwigs do not crawl into people's ears. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about earwigs?
 - A. All earwigs live in human ears.
 - B. The name 'earwig' is misleading.
 - C. Earwigs are named because of their ear-like pincers.
 - D. Earwigs are afraid of humans.
- 70) Earwigs have pincers on their backs which they use to protect themselves from predators. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about earwigs?
 - A. Earwigs use their pincers as a self-defense mechanism.
 - B. Earwigs use their pincers for climbing.
 - C. Earwigs use their pincers to attack other insects.
 - D. Earwigs are predators of many other insects.
- 71) Earwigs can be found all over the world except in the polar regions. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about earwigs' habitat?
 - A. Earwigs inhabit only the polar regions.
 - B. Earwigs can live anywhere, even in extreme cold.
 - C. Earwigs can only be found in tropical regions.
 - D. Earwigs have a wide geographical distribution but cannot survive in very cold environments.
- 72) Earwigs are nocturnal and often hide in small, moist crevices during the day. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about earwigs?
 - A. Earwigs are afraid of the dark.
 - B. Earwigs are diurnal and don't like moist environments.
 - C. Earwigs can't survive in dry environments.
 - D. Earwigs are active at night and prefer damp environments.
- 73) Mom earwigs protect their eggs and stay with them until they hatch. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about how earwigs handle their offspring?
 - A. Earwigs display parental care.
 - B. Earwigs only lay 1 or 2 eggs at a time.
 - C. Earwigs lay eggs and leave them to fend for themselves.
 - D. Earwigs don't care about their offspring.



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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> true </u> |
| 2. <u> A </u> | 27. <u> false </u> | 52. <u> B </u> |
| 3. <u> B </u> | 28. <u> true </u> | 53. <u> A </u> |
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| 5. <u> A </u> | 30. <u> true </u> | 55. <u> A </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> true </u> | 56. <u> C </u> |
| 7. <u> A </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | 58. <u> imperative </u> |
| 9. <u> C </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | 59. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 10. <u> B </u> | 35. <u> opinion </u> | 60. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> fact </u> | 61. <u> declarative </u> |
| 12. <u> true </u> | 37. <u> opinion </u> | 62. <u> interrogative </u> |
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C. about 1/2 inch long
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C. Mama earwigs do not care for their young
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