



Imagine a snake with a body so brightly colored, it looks like it's wearing a party costume! This is the Eastern Coral Snake, a small, thin snake with a head that barely stands out from its body. Its skin is covered with a pattern of red, yellow, and black bands that make it one of the most recognizable snakes in the world. But don't let its festive look fool you, this snake has a serious side too.

Speaking of serious, when it comes to mealtime, the Eastern Coral Snake is all business. Its favorite foods are small lizards and other snakes, which it catches using its short, fixed front fangs. The Eastern Coral Snake is a connoisseur of the 'grab-and-hold' style of dining, which means it holds onto its food while injecting it with venom. Even though this might sound scary, it is just part of how the Eastern Coral Snake survives in the wild.

This wild habitat of theirs is mostly in the southeastern United States. They like to live in forested or marshy areas where they can hide under leaf litter or in burrows. Eastern Coral Snakes are oviparous, which means they lay eggs, with the babies, called hatchlings, born fully formed. These hatchlings grow into adults who shed their skin several times a year, a process known as molting.



Now, you might be thinking, 'Do Eastern Coral Snakes and humans get along?' Well, they are shy and prefer to avoid humans, but if they feel threatened, they can bite to defend themselves. Their venom is very potent, but bites are rare because these snakes would rather hide or run away. In nature, every creature has its place, and for the Eastern Coral Snake, that place is being a quiet, colorful part of the world's amazing biodiversity.





**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What do Eastern Coral Snakes do several times a year?
  - A. Hibernate
  - B. Change their color
  - C. Shed their skin
  - D. Grow new fangs
- 2) Where can Eastern Coral Snakes be found?
  - A. In the mountains of Asia.
  - B. In the rainforests of South America.
  - C. In the southeastern United States.
  - D. In the deserts of Africa.
- 3) Where in their habitat do Eastern Coral Snakes like to hide?
  - A. Under leaf litter or in burrows
  - B. In tree branches or in bird nests
  - C. Under rocks or in caves
  - D. In water or in swampy areas
- 4) How does a bite from an eastern coral snake affect humans?
  - A. It is painless.
  - B. Coral snakes do not bite.
  - C. It is very dangerous.
  - D. It causes temporary dizziness.
- 5) What is the name for the process in which Eastern Coral Snakes remove old skin?
  - A. Molting
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  - D. Peeling
- 6) What is another term for the babies of Eastern Coral Snakes?
  - A. Larvae.
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  - D. Fry.
- 7) What color are the bands on the skin of the Eastern Coral Snake?
  - A. Red, white, and blue
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  - C. Red, yellow, and black
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  - A. Hide and ambush
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- 9) What is the Eastern Coral Snake's favorite food?
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- 10) How does the Eastern Coral Snake catch its food?
  - A. By constricting its prey.
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  - C. By using its long, sharp teeth.
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- 11) What areas do Eastern Coral Snakes prefer for their habitat?
  - A. Urban areas
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  - C. Forested or marshy areas
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- 12) Are eastern coral snakes aggressive towards humans?
- A. Only the females are aggressive      B. No, they are shy and prefer to avoid humans.
- C. Yes, they are often aggressive towards humans.      D. Only the males are aggressive
- 13) Why are bites from Eastern Coral Snakes rare?
- A. These snakes have poor aim      B. These snakes are friendly and prefer not to bite
- C. These snakes would rather hide or run away      D. These snakes lose their fangs with age

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

- 14) "Did you know we use our fangs to grab and hold our food while injecting it with venom?"
- 15) "You'll typically find me in icy, cold regions. I adore the snow!"
- 16) "I enjoy eating a diet that mainly consists of fruits and vegetables."
- 17) "Once I grow into an adult, I never shed my skin again!"
- 18) "You could spot us from a mile away with our bright red, yellow, and black stripes."
- 19) "When we are hungry, we like to munch on small lizards and, believe it or not, other snakes!"
- 20) "I prefer living on tree tops."
- 21) "I give live birth to my little ones. They come out wriggling and ready to explore the world."
- 22) "I have the mildest venom among snakes, harmless to humans!"
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- 24) "My venom isn't that powerful. A bite from me is similar to a bee sting."
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- 26) "I have large, retractable fangs that I use to catch my food."

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

- 27) Eastern Coral Snakes shed their skin several times a year.
- 28) It's interesting to watch an Eastern Coral Snake shed its skin.
- 29) Eastern Coral Snakes prefer to hide under leaf litter or in burrows.
- 30) Eastern Coral Snakes are beautiful creatures with their vibrant red, yellow, and black bands.
- 31) Eastern Coral Snakes can be found in the southeastern part of the United States.
- 32) It is disgusting that Eastern Coral Snakes will eat other snakes.
- 33) Eastern Coral Snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
- 34) Eastern Coral Snakes mostly live in forested or marshy areas.



- 35) It's impressive how the Eastern Coral Snake can hold its food and inject venom at the same time.
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**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 37) Eastern Coral Snakes are mostly found in the southeastern United States.
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- 43) Eastern Coral Snakes are very aggressive and seek out humans to bite.
- 44) Eastern Coral Snakes eat only plants.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 47) Eastern coral snakes are great climbers and can be found in trees.
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| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |           |
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- |                  |                          |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>C</u>      | 26. <u>false</u>         | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u>      | 27. <u>fact</u>          | 52. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 3. <u>A</u>      | 28. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 4. <u>C</u>      | 29. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 5. <u>A</u>      | 30. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 6. <u>C</u>      | 31. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 7. <u>C</u>      | 32. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 8. <u>C</u>      | 33. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 9. <u>D</u>      | 34. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 10. <u>B</u>     | 35. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 11. <u>C</u>     | 36. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 12. <u>B</u>     | 37. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 13. <u>C</u>     | 38. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 14. <u>true</u>  | 39. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 15. <u>false</u> | 40. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 16. <u>false</u> | 41. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 17. <u>false</u> | 42. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 18. <u>true</u>  | 43. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 19. <u>true</u>  | 44. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 22. <u>false</u> | 47. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 23. <u>true</u>  | 48. <u>interrogative</u> |                          |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 25. <u>true</u>  | 50. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |



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**Use the article to answer the question.**

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A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. Change their color  
C. Shed their skin D. \_\_\_\_\_
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12) Are eastern coral snakes aggressive towards humans? (paragraph 4)

- A. B. No, they are shy and prefer to avoid humans.
- C. D.