



"Zip, zap, zoom!" Meet the ground squirrel, a feisty little creature that loves to dart around in the grasslands and forests. These cute critters are covered in fur that comes in shades of brown, grey, and sometimes black, which helps them blend into their surroundings. They are usually about 9 to 11 inches long, which is about the size of a big ruler, and they have bushy tails that add another 5 to 9 inches to their length. Ground squirrels have strong legs that are just perfect for digging burrows and running fast when they need to.

Speaking of burrows, let's talk about where these fun-loving animals live. Ground squirrels make their homes in burrows, which are like tunnels under the ground. These burrows are not only their homes, but also their hiding places from predators like foxes and hawks. You'll find these burrows in a variety of places, like grasslands, forests, and even in your own backyard if you live near their wild habitats!

Just like us, ground squirrels need food to stay healthy and active. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and small animals. Their diet includes nuts, seeds, fruits, vegetables, and sometimes insects and small birds. But did you know they hibernate in winter? They store food in their burrows to eat when they wake up in the spring.



Ground squirrels have a pretty cool life cycle and relationship with humans and other animals. Did you know that they hibernate in winter and wake up in spring? When they wake up, it's time to find a mate and have babies! While they might be a little naughty by digging holes in lawns, they also eat harmful insects, helping us in their own little way. And let's not forget, their alert calls warning of predators are a great help to other animals too. So, that's the story of the ground squirrel, a small animal with a big personality!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Why are ground squirrels sometimes considered helpful to humans?
 - A. They are good pets
 - B. They are great climbers
 - C. They eat harmful insects
 - D. They keep larger animals away from homes
- 2) Where do ground squirrels make their homes?
 - A. Under rocks
 - B. On tree branches
 - C. Underground
 - D. In trees
- 3) What do ground squirrels use their strong legs for?
 - A. Climbing trees
 - B. Swimming in rivers
 - C. Digging burrows
 - D. Hanging upside down
- 4) What do ground squirrels eat?
 - A. Only nuts and seeds
 - B. Only plants
 - C. Both plants and small animals
 - D. Only small animals
- 5) When do ground squirrels wake up from hibernation?
 - A. In the winter
 - B. In the fall
 - C. In the spring
 - D. In the summer
- 6) What color does the fur of a ground squirrel come in?
 - A. Red, Yellow, and Blue
 - B. Brown, Grey, and Black
 - C. Green, Orange, and Purple
 - D. White, Black, and Grey
- 7) Who are the predators of ground squirrels?
 - A. Wolves and Owls
 - B. Lions and Eagles
 - C. Tigers and Vultures
 - D. Foxes and Hawks
- 8) What do ground squirrels do during the winter?
 - A. They hibernate
 - B. They migrate to warmer places
 - C. They do not change their habits
 - D. They build nests in dense shrubs

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

- 9) "I travel south during the winter."
- 10) "I can be as long as a ruler!"
- 11) "Insects and small birds? Ew, no! I strictly eat grass."
- 12) "I like to build my home on the branches of trees."
- 13) "My home is a tunnel under the ground! I use it to sleep and hide from other animals."
- 14) "My tail is short, probably as short as your little finger."
- 15) "Unlike you, I hibernate in winter. I sleep for a long time and wake up in spring.", "
- 16) "I help spread seeds when I bury my food. Nature's little gardener, that's me!"



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| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> fact </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> fact </u> |
| 3. <u> C </u> | 28. <u> opinion </u> |
| 4. <u> C </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> |
| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> true </u> |
| 6. <u> B </u> | 31. <u> false </u> |
| 7. <u> D </u> | 32. <u> true </u> |
| 8. <u> A </u> | 33. <u> false </u> |
| 9. <u> false </u> | 34. <u> true </u> |
| 10. <u> true </u> | 35. <u> false </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> false </u> |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> false </u> |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> true </u> |
| 14. <u> false </u> | 39. <u> true </u> |
| 15. <u> true </u> | 40. <u> B </u> |
| 16. <u> true </u> | 41. <u> A </u> |
| 17. <u> false </u> | 42. <u> D </u> |
| 18. <u> false </u> | 43. <u> A </u> |
| 19. <u> true </u> | 44. <u> C </u> |
| 20. <u> fact </u> | 45. <u> declarative </u> |
| 21. <u> opinion </u> | 46. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 22. <u> fact </u> | 47. <u> declarative </u> |
| 23. <u> opinion </u> | 48. <u> declarative </u> |
| 24. <u> fact </u> | 49. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 25. <u> opinion </u> | 50. <u> interrogative </u> |



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Why are ground squirrels sometimes considered helpful to humans? (paragraph 4)
 - A.
 - B. They are great climbers
 - C. They eat harmful insects
 - D.
- 2) Where do ground squirrels make their homes? (paragraph 2)
 - A.
 - B. On tree branches
 - C. Underground
 - D.
- 3) What do ground squirrels use their strong legs for? (paragraph 1)
 - A. Climbing trees
 - B.
 - C. Digging burrows
 - D.
- 4) What do ground squirrels eat? (paragraph 3)
 - A.
 - B. Only plants
 - C. Both plants and small animals
 - D.
- 5) When do ground squirrels wake up from hibernation? (paragraph 4)
 - A.
 - B. In the fall
 - C. In the spring
 - D.
- 6) What color does the fur of a ground squirrel come in? (paragraph 1)
 - A.
 - B. Brown, Grey, and Black
 - C.
 - D.
- 7) Who are the predators of ground squirrels? (paragraph 2)
 - A.
 - B. Lions and Eagles
 - C.
 - D. Foxes and Hawks
- 8) What do ground squirrels do during the winter? (paragraph 3)
 - A. They hibernate
 - B. They migrate to warmer places
 - C.
 - D.

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

- 9) "I travel south during the winter." (paragraph 4)
- 10) "I can be as long as a ruler!" (paragraph 1)
- 11) "Insects and small birds? Ew, no! I strictly eat grass." (paragraph 3)
- 12) "I like to build my home on the branches of trees." (paragraph 2)