



Get ready to meet a fascinating creature, the long-tailed vole! This little furball is about the size of your hand, with a tail longer than its body, hence the name, long-tailed vole. It's covered in soft, brown fur, with tiny ears peeking out from its head, and bright, watchful eyes.

On their little feet, you'll find sharp, tiny claws that help them to dig and climb.



Speaking of digging, did you know that long-tailed voles are also known as little architects of the animal kingdom? They make their homes, called burrows, in the ground of the forests and grasslands of North America. These cozy burrows are not only their homes, but also their safe spots from predators like hawks, owls, and weasels. Wow, it sure sounds like they lead busy lives in their homes, doesn't it?

Well, when they aren't busy building, they're usually out foraging for food. Their diet mainly consists of green vegetation, seeds, and occasionally small insects. They're pretty important to the ecosystem, as they help in the decomposition of organic material and plant dispersal. But don't worry, they're not pests! In fact, they don't have any significant negative impact on human activities.

☒ While we humans may not interact much with these voles, they certainly play a crucial role in the food chain. They're a vital source of food for many of the larger animals and help to control the population of insects and plants by eating them. And guess what? Unlike many other animals, the female voles are the ones who establish and defend the territory! So, remember, every creature, no matter how small, has its own important role in our big, beautiful world.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) How long is the tail of the long-tailed vole?
 - A. Same as the body length
 - B. Longer than its body
 - C. Half of its body
 - D. Shorter than its body

- 2) What is the role of long-tailed voles in the ecosystem?
 - A. Regulate climate and weather
 - B. Help in the decomposition of organic material and plant dispersal
 - C. Serve as food for larger animals
 - D. Pollinators of flowers

- 3) Who establishes and defends the territory in the case of long-tailed voles?
 - A. Male voles
 - B. Younger voles
 - C. Female voles
 - D. Older voles

- 4) Where do long-tailed voles make their homes?
 - A. In shrubs
 - B. In caves
 - C. In trees
 - D. In the ground

- 5) What color is the fur of a long-tailed vole?
 - A. Grey with white stripes
 - B. Black with spots
 - C. Red
 - D. Brown

- 6) Who are some of the known predators of the long-tailed vole?
 - A. Hawks, owls, and weasels
 - B. Cats, Dogs, and Foxes
 - C. Lions, Tigers, and Bears
 - D. Snakes, Frogs, and Spiders

- 7) What is the purpose of the sharp, tiny claws of the long-tailed voles?
 - A. To help them swim and jump
 - B. To help them run and sprint
 - C. To help them fly and hover
 - D. To help them dig and climb

- 8) What does the long-tailed vole mainly eat?
 - A. Meat, fish, and bird eggs
 - B. Green vegetation, seeds, and insects
 - C. Grains, cereal, and bread
 - D. Fruits, nuts, and berries

- 9) Are long-tailed voles pests?
 - A. Yes, they damage crops and property
 - B. Yes, they eat household items
 - C. Yes, they spread diseases
 - D. No, they do not have any significant negative impact on human activities

- 10) What is the size of a long-tailed vole?
 - A. As big as a cat
 - B. About the size of your hand
 - C. About the size of a dog
 - D. As small as a mouse

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

- 11) "You know what I eat? Mostly green stuff and seeds, with a few insects sometimes."



- 12) "I make my home underground."
- 13) "You can find me mostly in forests and grasslands in North America."
- 14) "I prefer living in hot, desert environments."
- 15) "I'm not a pest, in fact, I don't really have any negative impact on humans."
- 16) "Predators? We don't have any! We're the kings of the animal kingdom."
- 17) "With my tiny claws, I can dig and climb trees too!"
- 18) "I may look like a normal mouse, but I don't have a tail!"
- 19) "Insects? Yuck! I'm more of a meat lover."
- 20) "I avoid forests and grasslands as they are too dangerous."

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

- 21) The diet of long-tailed voles mainly consists of green vegetation and seeds.
- 22) It's pretty impressive that long-tailed voles can survive when being targeted by hawks, owls, and weasels.
- 23) Predators of long-tailed voles include hawks, owls, and weasels.
- 24) The fact that long-tailed voles have a territory is interesting.
- 25) Long-tailed voles use their claws to climb.
- 26) Long-tailed voles are cuter than other animals because they have tiny ears.
- 27) The female long-tailed voles establish and defend their territory.
- 28) Long-tailed voles build their homes in the forests and grasslands of North America.
- 29) It's amazing that long-tailed voles are able to build their own homes.
- 30) It's really cool that long-tailed voles can be found in both grasslands and forests.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 31) Long-tailed voles have sharp claws.
- 32) Long-tailed voles are classified as pests because they destroy gardens and crops.
- 33) Long-tailed voles mainly eat green vegetation and seeds.
- 34) The diet of a long-tailed vole is primarily made up of meat.
- 35) Long-tailed will eat insects.
- 36) Long-tailed voles can only be found in forests.
- 37) Male voles establish and defend territory.
- 38) Baby voles live in high up trees after they are born.
- 39) Female voles establish and defend the territory.
- 40) Long-tailed voles make their homes in the ground.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 41) Long-tailed voles have a keen sense of smell that they use to find food.
- 42) What is the natural habitat of long-tailed voles?
- 43) Long-tailed voles build intricate underground burrows to live in.



- 44) Long-tailed voles are small rodents that live in grassy areas.
- 45) What predators do long-tailed voles have?
- 46) Are long-tailed voles nocturnal?



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



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 - A. Same as the body length
 - B. Longer than its body
 - C.
 - D.
- 2) What is the role of long-tailed voles in the ecosystem? (paragraph 3)
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 - C.
 - D.
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