



Did you know there's a tiny creature called a pillbug that rolls up into a ball when it feels scared? These little guys, also known as roly-polies, are not actually bugs at all, but crustaceans, like crabs or lobsters! They have a hard, segmented exoskeleton and, when they curl up, they look a lot like tiny armadillos. Pillbugs have seven pairs of legs and two pairs of antennae, one of which is hard to see.

Speaking of those hard-to-see antennae, they help pillbugs explore their favorite spots, which are usually damp and dark. You might find them under logs, rocks, and in your garden, where they feel at home in the soil. The reason they love these places is because they breathe through gills, just like fish! So, they need to stay in moist environments to breathe properly.

Now, you're probably wondering what these little soil dwellers eat, right? Well, pillbugs are nature's little recyclers, they munch on decayed plants and animal material, helping to break it down into nutrients that can be used again by other plants. That's why they're so beneficial to have in your garden, they're helping to make the soil richer! But they need to watch out for predators like birds, frogs, and spiders who find them quite tasty.



From their defensive curling to their garden recycling, pillbugs are truly fascinating creatures, aren't they? Their life cycle is interesting too - they undergo a process called molting, where they shed their hard exoskeleton to grow, just like snakes do with their skin. Female pillbugs even carry their eggs, and later, their babies in a special pouch on their belly, just like kangaroos. So, next time you see a pillbug, remember they're not just bugs, they're hard-working, soil-enriching, miniature crustaceans with a lot of exciting stories to tell!



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) Where do female pillbugs carry their eggs and babies?
  - A. on their back
  - B. in their legs
  - C. in their mouth
  - D. a pouch on their belly
  
- 2) Which best describes roly-polies?
  - A. Insects
  - B. Crustaceans
  - C. Arachnids
  - D. Armadillos
  
- 3) What do pillbugs use to explore?
  - A. legs
  - B. eyes
  - C. wings
  - D. antennae
  
- 4) What are some predators of pillbugs?
  - A. lizards, mice, and snakes
  - B. birds, frogs, and spiders
  - C. ants, bees, and wasps
  - D. rabbits, dogs, and cats
  
- 5) What is the process called when pillbugs shed their exoskeleton?
  - A. shedding
  - B. skinning
  - C. molting
  - D. metamorphosis
  
- 6) What do pillbugs breathe through?
  - A. gills
  - B. nostrils
  - C. lungs
  - D. stoma
  
- 7) What do pillbugs eat?
  - A. yellow flowers
  - B. small insects
  - C. fruits and seeds
  - D. decayed plants
  
- 8) How many pairs of legs do pillbugs have?
  - A. two
  - B. four
  - C. ten
  - D. seven
  
- 9) Why do pillbugs need to stay in moist environments?
  - A. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to sleep.
  - B. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to find food.
  - C. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to stay clean.
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- 10) Which place would you likely NOT find a pillbug living?
  - A. In the soil
  - B. In a tree
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- 11) What are pillbugs also known as?
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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).**

- 12) "I have one pair of antennae."
- 13) "I love being out under the bright sun all day!"
- 14) "My protective shell is divided into segments. When I curl up, I look like a tiny armadillo!"
- 15) "My body is soft and squishy."
- 16) "I carry my babies like humans do."
- 17) "I live my life out in the open, not in the soil."
- 18) "You'll often find me under rocks and in the moist parts of gardens."
- 19) "I help gardeners by breaking down old plants and animals into nutrients for the soil. I'm like a tiny recycling machine!"
- 20) "Many think I'm a bug, but... surprise! I'm actually a relative of crabs and lobsters. You won't find me in the sea though!"
- 21) "We pillbugs have six legs."
- 22) "I love dry environments."
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- 24) "With my seven pairs of legs and two pairs of antennae, I explore the complex world around me."
- 25) "I like to eat fresh, green plants."
- 26) "Moms of my kind carry eggs and even babies in a pouch on our bellies, much like kangaroos do. That's how we protect our young ones!"
- 27) "I essentially eat trash! I munch on decayed plants and animals, turning waste into treasure for the plants."
- 28) "I don't breathe like you do, I use gills! Just like fishes, I need a moist environment to breathe."
- 29) "I breathe through lungs like humans."
- 30) "When I get scared, I roll up into a tight ball. It's my way of hiding!"
- 31) "Want to know a cool fact? To grow bigger, I shed my hard shell. It's a process called molting, sorta like how snakes shed their skin."

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

- 32) Birds, frogs, and spiders are some predators that pillbugs need to avoid.
- 33) Roly-polies are the best animals to have in a garden.
- 34) Because pillbugs breathe through gills, they require damp environments to live.
- 35) Roly-polies aren't scary, they are cute.
- 36) Pillbugs can roll into a ball shape when they are afraid.
- 37) Pillbugs are disgusting the way they eat decaying material.
- 38) As pillbugs grow, they shed their old exoskeleton through a process called molting.
- 39) Pillbugs are actually a kind of crustacean, just like lobsters or crabs.





- 62) What are pillbugs also known as?
- 63) Female pillbugs carry their eggs in a pouch.
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- 65) Pillbugs have seven pairs of legs.
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- |                                     |                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |
| 2. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 52. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>             |
| 3. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 53. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 4. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 54. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>             |
| 5. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 55. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 6. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 56. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>             |
| 7. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 57. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 8. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 33. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 58. <u>      <b>imperative</b>      </u>    |
| 9. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 34. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 59. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 10. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>     | 35. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 60. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 11. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>     | 36. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 61. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 12. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 37. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 62. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
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  - A. legs
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