Name:

Just like magic, the pygmy shrew zips through the underbrush, barely visible to the naked eye. These tiny creatures are the smallest mammals known to us, weighing less than a dime and being only about the size of your thumb. Their fur is a soft, velvety brown color, which helps them blend in with their surroundings. They have a pointy snout, tiny eyes, and ears that are almost hidden by their fur.

Remember how we said they're excellent at blending in? Well, that's because they live in places like fields, forests, and gardens all around Europe, North America, and Asia. In their little homes, they feast on a buffet of insects, spiders, and other small invertebrates. In



fact, they eat so much that they need to consume 2 to 3 times their body weight in food each day!

Now, imagine eating that much, you'd probably be very sleepy, right? Well, pygmy shrews don't have much time for sleep, they're too busy living their life cycle. They're born in the spring, grow quickly, and by summer, they're ready to have little shrews of their own. Despite their small size, they're fearless, using their sharp teeth to defend themselves from threats.



Speaking of threats, did you know that pygmy shrews have a special trick? Their saliva is venomous, which helps them to paralyze their prey and defend against predators. This makes them different from other shrew species, which can't do this. So, next time you're exploring the great outdoors, remember to respect these small but mighty creatures.



Pygmy Shrew

Solv	e each problem.		
Use	the article to answer the question.		
1)	What do pygmy shrews eat?		
	A. Seeds and nuts	B.	Insects, spiders, and small invertebrates
	C. Leaves and berries	D.	Fish and birds
2)	Which is a place pygmy shrews might live?		
	A. Fields and forests	В.	Beaches and oceans
	C. Deserts and dunes	D.	Mountains and caves
3)	What is special about a pygmy shrew's saliva	?	
	A. It's venomous	В.	It's always cold
	C. It's colorless	D.	It's sweet
4)	When are pygmy shrews ready to have babie	s?	
, ,	A. After just a year	B.	As soon as they're born
	C. One season after being born	D.	One week after being born
5)	When are pygmy shrews generally born?		
	A. In the summer	B.	In the winter
	C. In the fall	D.	In the spring
6)	What is interesting about how much pygmy s	hrev	ws eat?
0)	A. They eat up to three times their body weight each day.		They eat their body weight in food a day.
	C. They eat half their body weight per day.	D.	They go weeks without eating.
7)	What sets pygmy shrews apart from other shi	ew	species?
-)	A. Their saliva		Their color
	C. Their size	D.	Their diet
8)	What color is the fur of a pygmy shrew?		
	A. Black	B.	Gray
	C. White	D.	Brown
9)	How do pygmy shrews defend themselves?		
, ,	A. By releasing a foul smell	B.	With their strong muscles
	C. Through camouflage	D.	Using their sharp teeth
10)	How big is a pygmy shrew?		
	A. As big as a mouse	B.	The size of a cat
	C. The size of a hand	D.	The size of your thumb

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

11) "My fur changes color based on the seasons, just like a chameleon."

1-10										
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0

	Pygmy Shrew Name:
12)	"I survive on an all-insect diet, including spiders and other tiny creepy crawlies."
13)	"Now, let me tell you, we pygmy shrews eat 2 to 3 times our body weight in food every day, that's a lot!"
14)	"My saliva can paralyze my prey and protect me from predators."
15)	"We prefer to hang out in the desert, it's nice and warm."
16)	"We love long sleeps, especially after a big meal."
17)	"I don't really like to eat much, just a little bite now and then."
18)	"We barely eat, don't need much food to survive."
19)	"We're born in winter and enjoy the cold."
20)	"I live in places like fields, forests, and even gardens in Europe, North America, and Asia."
21)	"I'm pretty big for a mammal, almost the size of a cat."

22) "Guess what? I'm one of the smallest animals on the planet, tinier than a dime!"

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

- 23) Pygmy shrews eat about 2 to 3 times their own body weight in food every day.
- 24) Pygmy shrews are more interesting than other shrew species because they have venomous saliva.
- 25) Pygmy shrews eat insects, spiders, and small invertebrates.
- **26)** Pygmy shrews, with their pointy snout and tiny eyes, are the more adorable than any other mammals.
- 27) Pygmy shrews are the smallest mammals known to humans.
- 28) The sharp teeth of the pygmy shrew make it look a bit scary despite its tiny size.
- **29)** Pygmy shrews usually give birth during the spring season.
- **30)** Pygmy shrews can be found in places like fields, gardens, forests.
- **31**) It's amazing that the pygmy shrew, being so tiny, is able to eat 2 to 3 times its body weight in food each day!
- **32)** The way pygmy shrews use their sharp teeth to defend themselves from threats is very cool.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **33**) Pygmy shrews are usually born in the spring.
- **34)** Pygmy shrews only eat plants.
- 35) Pygmy shrews live in forests, fields, and gardens.
- **36)** Pygmy shrews are the largest mammals known to humans.
- 37) Pygmy shrews eat insects and spiders.
- **38)** Pygmy shrews only live in South America.
- **39**) Pygmy shrews are only found in forests.
- **40)** Pygmy shrews are born during the summer.
- **41**) Pygmy shrews are venomous.
- **42)** Pygmy shrews are the smallest mammals known to us.

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P	ygmy Shrew	Name:
Determine which choice is the expande	d form of the underlined c	contraction.
43) Pygmy shrews <u>can't</u> fly, but they can	n climb trees!	
A. can able	B. cannot	
C. will not	D. are not	
44) <u>They've</u> got a special bite that helps	them catch their food.	
A. They have	B. They are	
C. They had	D. They were	
45) Pygmy shrews <u>aren't</u> very big, but th	ney're super fast!	
A. are able	B. will not	
C. can not	D. are not	
46) Because they're so small, <u>they've</u> go	t to be careful of predators.	
A. they have	B. they had	
C. they were	D. they are	
47) <u>They're</u> so tiny that it's hard to see the	nem in the grass.	

- A. They have B. They were
 - C. They are D. They do

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

- **48)** Pygmy shrews are known for their high metabolism, requiring them to eat almost their own body weight in food every day.
- **49)** Can pygmy shrews swim?
- **50)** Pygmy shrews are active hunters, constantly searching for insects and small invertebrates to eat.
- **51**) Pygmy shrews have a short lifespan of only about 1 to 2 years.
- **52)** Are pygmy shrews endangered?
- **53)** Are pygmy shrews good climbers?

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25. 50. Page 5 of 5		Deading				

Name:

Just like magic, the pygmy shrew zips through the underbrush, barely visible to the naked eye. These tiny creatures are the smallest mammals known to us, weighing less than a dime and being only about the size of your thumb. Their fur is a soft, velvety brown color, which helps them blend in with their surroundings. They have a pointy snout, tiny eyes, and ears that are almost hidden by their fur.

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fact, they eat so much that they need to consume 2 to 3 times their body weight in food each day!

Now, imagine eating that much, you'd probably be very sleepy, right? Well, pygmy shrews don't have much time for sleep, they're too busy living their life cycle. They're born in the spring, grow quickly, and by summer, they're ready to have little shrews of their own. Despite their small size, they're fearless, using their sharp teeth to defend themselves from threats.



Speaking of threats, did you know that pygmy shrews have a special trick? Their saliva is venomous, which helps them to paralyze their prey and defend against predators. This makes them different from other shrew species, which can't do this. So, next time you're exploring the great outdoors, remember to respect these small but mighty creatures.



Solve each problem.

Pygmy Shrew

Name: **Answer Key**

	the article to answer the question.		
1)	What do pygmy shrews eat?		
	A. Seeds and nuts	В.	Insects, spiders, and small
			invertebrates
	C. Leaves and berries	D.	Fish and birds
2)	Which is a place pygmy shrews might live?		
	A. Fields and forests	B.	Beaches and oceans
	C. Deserts and dunes	D.	Mountains and caves
3)	What is special about a pygmy shrew's saliva	?	
-)	A. It's venomous		It's always cold
	C. It's colorless		It's sweet
		0	
4)	When are pygmy shrews ready to have babies		
	A. After just a year		As soon as they're born
	C. One season after being born	D.	One week after being born
5)	When are pygmy shrews generally born?		
	A. In the summer	B.	In the winter
	C. In the fall	D.	In the spring
6)	What is interesting about how much pygmy s	hrev	vs eat?
-)	• • • • •		
-)	A. They eat up to three times their body		They eat their body weight in food a
-)	A. They eat up to three times their body weight each day.	B.	They eat their body weight in food a day.
-,	A. They eat up to three times their body	B.	They eat their body weight in food a
	A. They eat up to three times their body weight each day.C. They eat half their body weight per day.	B. D.	They eat their body weight in food a day. They go weeks without eating.
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7)	 A. They eat up to three times their body weight each day. C. They eat half their body weight per day. What sets pygmy shrews apart from other shift. A. Their saliva C. Their size What color is the fur of a pygmy shrew? 	B. D. ew B. D. B.	They eat their body weight in food a day. They go weeks without eating. species? Their color Their diet
7)	 A. They eat up to three times their body weight each day. C. They eat half their body weight per day. What sets pygmy shrews apart from other shr A. Their saliva C. Their size What color is the fur of a pygmy shrew? A. Black C. White 	B. D. ew B. D. B.	They eat their body weight in food a day. They go weeks without eating. species? Their color Their diet Gray
7) 8)	 A. They eat up to three times their body weight each day. C. They eat half their body weight per day. What sets pygmy shrews apart from other shifts. Their saliva C. Their size What color is the fur of a pygmy shrew? A. Black C. White How do pygmy shrews defend themselves? 	B. D. B. D. B. D.	They eat their body weight in food a day. They go weeks without eating. species? Their color Their diet Gray
7) 8)	 A. They eat up to three times their body weight each day. C. They eat half their body weight per day. What sets pygmy shrews apart from other shr A. Their saliva C. Their size What color is the fur of a pygmy shrew? A. Black C. White 	 B. D. rew : B. D. B. B. B. 	They eat their body weight in food a day. They go weeks without eating. species? Their color Their diet Gray Brown
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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).

11) "My fur changes color based on the seasons, just like a chameleon."

	Pygmy Shrew	Name:	Answer Key
12)	"I survive on an all-insect diet, including spiders and other tiny creepy crawl	lies."	
13)	"Now, let me tell you, we pygmy shrews eat 2 to 3 times our body weight in day, that's a lot!"	food ever	у
14)	"My saliva can paralyze my prey and protect me from predators."		
15)	"We prefer to hang out in the desert, it's nice and warm."		
16)	"We love long sleeps, especially after a big meal."		
17)	"I don't really like to eat much, just a little bite now and then."		
18)	"We barely eat, don't need much food to survive."		
19)	"We're born in winter and enjoy the cold."		
20)	"I live in places like fields, forests, and even gardens in Europe, North Amer	rica, and A	sia."
21)	"I'm pretty big for a mammal, almost the size of a cat."		
22)			

22) "Guess what? I'm one of the smallest animals on the planet, tinier than a dime!"

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

- 23) Pygmy shrews eat about 2 to 3 times their own body weight in food every day.
- 24) Pygmy shrews are more interesting than other shrew species because they have venomous saliva.
- 25) Pygmy shrews eat insects, spiders, and small invertebrates.
- **26)** Pygmy shrews, with their pointy snout and tiny eyes, are the more adorable than any other mammals.
- 27) Pygmy shrews are the smallest mammals known to humans.
- 28) The sharp teeth of the pygmy shrew make it look a bit scary despite its tiny size.
- **29)** Pygmy shrews usually give birth during the spring season.
- **30)** Pygmy shrews can be found in places like fields, gardens, forests.
- **31**) It's amazing that the pygmy shrew, being so tiny, is able to eat 2 to 3 times its body weight in food each day!
- **32)** The way pygmy shrews use their sharp teeth to defend themselves from threats is very cool.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **33)** Pygmy shrews are usually born in the spring.
- **34)** Pygmy shrews only eat plants.
- **35)** Pygmy shrews live in forests, fields, and gardens.
- **36)** Pygmy shrews are the largest mammals known to humans.
- **37)** Pygmy shrews eat insects and spiders.
- **38)** Pygmy shrews only live in South America.
- **39)** Pygmy shrews are only found in forests.
- **40)** Pygmy shrews are born during the summer.
- **41**) Pygmy shrews are venomous.
- **42)** Pygmy shrews are the smallest mammals known to us.

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	Pygmy S	Shre	W	Name:	Answer Key		
Deter	Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.						
43)]	Pygmy shrews <u>can't</u> fly, but they can climb t	rees	!				
-	A. can able		cannot				
	C. will not	D.	are not				
44)	They've got a special bite that helps them ca	tch t	heir food.				
	A. They have	B.	They are				
	C. They had	D.	They were				
45)]	Pygmy shrews <u>aren't</u> very big, but they're su	per f	fast!				
	A. are able	B.	will not				
	C. can not	D.	are not				
46)]	Because they're so small, they've got to be c	arefi	ll of predators.				
	A. they have	B.	they had				
	C. they were	D.	they are				
47)	They're so tiny that it's hard to see them in the	ne gr	ass.				

- A. They haveB. They wereB. They wereD. They were
 - C. They are D. They do

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

- **48)** Pygmy shrews are known for their high metabolism, requiring them to eat almost their own body weight in food every day.
- **49)** Can pygmy shrews swim?
- **50)** Pygmy shrews are active hunters, constantly searching for insects and small invertebrates to eat.
- 51) Pygmy shrews have a short lifespan of only about 1 to 2 years.
- 52) Are pygmy shrews endangered?
- 53) Are pygmy shrews good climbers?

			Pygmy Shrew			Name:	Answer	Key
1.	В	26.	opinion	51.	declarative	_		
2.	Α	27.	fact	52.	interrogative			
3.	Α	28.	opinion	53.	interrogative	_		
4.	С	29.	fact					
5.	D	30.	fact					
6.	A	31.	opinion					
7.	Α	32.	opinion					
8.	D	33.	true					
9.	D	34.	false					
10.	D	35.	true					
11.	false	36.	false					
12.	true	37.	true					
13.	true	38.	false					
14.	true	39.	false					
15.	false	40.	false					
16.	false	41.	true					
17.	false	42.	true					
18.	false	43.	В					
19.	false	44.	Α					
20.	true	45.	D					
21.	false	46.	Α					
22.	true	47.	С					
23.	fact	48.	declarative					
24.	opinion	49.	interrogative					
25.	fact	50.	declarative					
	Reading	www.Commo	nCoreSheets.com	Page 4	l of 4			

		Pygmy Shrew	Name:	
Solv	e each problem.	<u> </u>		
Use	the article to answer the questio	n.		
	What do pygmy shrews eat? (parage			
	A. Seeds and nuts	B. Insects, spider	rs, and small	
	С.	invertebrates D.		
2)	Which is a place pygmy shrews n A. Fields and forests	night live? (paragraph 2) B. Beaches and o	22000	
	C.	D.	Jeans	
3)	What is special about a pygmy sh A. It's venomous	rew's saliva? (paragraph 4) B.		
	C.	D. D.		
		how holical		
4)	When are pygmy shrews ready to A. After just a year	B.		
	C. One season after being born	D.		
5)	When are pygmy shrews generall	whom 9 () a		
3)	A. In the summer	B.		
	С.	D. In the spring		
6)	What is interesting about how mu	ich nyomy shrews eat? (paragraph	2)	
0)	A. They eat up to three times the		body weight in food a	
	weight each day.	day.		
	C.	D.		
7)	What sets pygmy shrews apart fro	om other shrew species? (paragrap	ph 4)	
	A. Their saliva	B. Their color		
	С.	D.		
8)	What color is the fur of a pygmy			
	A.	B. Gray		
	С.	D. Brown		
9)	How do pygmy shrews defend the			
	A. By releasing a foul smell	B. With their stro	-	
	С.	D. Using their sh	arp teetn	
10)	How big is a pygmy shrew? (paragr			
	A. As big as a mouse	B. The size of a D. The size of years		
	С.	D. The size of yo		

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



Pygmy Shrew

11) "My fur changes color based on the seasons, just like a chameleon." (paragraph 1)

12) "I survive on an all-insect diet, including spiders and other tiny creepy crawlies." (paragraph 2)