



Imagine a tiny critter that looks like a fish, but actually isn't one at all! Meet the silverfish, a small, silver-grey creature who loves to wiggle its way around your home. This little fellow gets its name from its shiny, silver-grey color and the fish-like way it moves. They have a teardrop shape and are about half an inch long, with three long, thin tails at the end of their bodies.



Now that we've met our wiggly friend, let's take a peek into its life. Silverfish are nocturnal animals, meaning they like to come out at night and are pretty shy during the day. They have a fascinating life cycle, starting as an egg, then becoming a nymph (a baby bug) and finally growing into an adult silverfish. These little creatures can live for up to eight years, which is pretty long for a bug!

But what do these nocturnal wigglers eat and where do they hang out? Silverfish have a pretty varied diet which includes sugar, hair, dandruff and even glue! You can often find them in damp, dark places in your home, like your basement, bathroom or under the kitchen sink. They also love paper and fabric, so watch out for your books and clothes!



Now, how do these teardrop-shaped critters interact with others? While they don't pose a direct threat to humans or pets, they can be a nuisance due to their love for munching on household items. In terms of defenses, silverfish are pretty good at running away and hiding when they sense danger. So next time you see a shiny, wiggling critter scurrying away, remember, it might just be a silverfish, a fascinating little creature with a long lifespan and a taste for the sweeter things in life.



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) What shape is a silverfish?  
A. Circle                      B. Teardrop                      C. Square                      D. Rectangle
- 2) What do silverfish do when they sense danger?  
A. Play dead                      B. Change color to match their surroundings  
C. fly high away from the danger                      D. Run away and hide
- 3) Do silverfish pose a direct threat to humans or pets?  
A. No                      B. Yes                      C. Only male silverfish                      D. Only female silverfish
- 4) When do silverfish usually come out?  
A. In the afternoon    B. At night                      C. In the morning                      D. At noon
- 5) What color is a silverfish?  
A. Red-orange                      B. Yellow-brown                      C. Silver-grey                      D. Blue-green
- 6) How long can a silverfish live?  
A. Just one year                      B. Up to eight years  
C. Only a few days                      D. Less than a month
- 7) What is one way silverfish get their name?  
A. Their love for eating fish                      B. Their close relationship with actual fish  
C. The fish-like way they move                      D. The places they like to live which are often near water
- 8) Which choice is NOT something silverfish may eat?  
A. Glue                      B. Sugar                      C. Coins                      D. Hair
- 9) Which place in your home is a place you would not find silverfish?  
A. Under your dog's water bowl                      B. In your dark basement  
C. In your dusty attic                      D. Under your bathroom sink

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

- 10) "I'm a brown, wiggly creature."
- 11) "I have a very short life span, only a year!"
- 12) "I have a sweet tooth, especially for sugar. But I can nibble on hair, dandruff, even glue if I'm hungry!"
- 13) "I am very big, about the size of a ruler."
- 14) "I love to roam around the garden during the day."
- 15) "I love to hang out in sunny, dry areas during the day."
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- 17) "I don't sleep at night; instead, I come out to explore and hunt."
- 18) "My life starts as a tiny egg, then I grow into a nymph, and finally into an adult like I am now."



- 19) "When I sense danger, I usually fight back."
- 20) "I usually wake up early in the morning."
- 21) "I do not like paper or fabric."
- 22) "To me, your books and clothes aren't just objects - they're delicious meals!"
- 23) "I hate damp, dark places."
- 24) "I'm a lot shorter than the fish in the ocean. I'm only half an inch long."
- 25) "My shining grey skin and swishy tail make me look a lot like a fish."
- 26) "I'm quite harmless and won't bother your pet or you. But I might nibble on your household items when you're not looking."
- 27) "I'm harmful to humans and pets."
- 28) "Most insects don't live as long as I do. At my best, I can live up to eight years. Most insects don't even make it to their first birthday."
- 29) "If you ever spot me, I'm probably in a dark, damp place. These are my favorite hiding spots."

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

- 30) Silverfish are likely to be found in areas of your house that are dark and damp.
- 31) It's kind of scary that Silverfish come out at night.
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- 33) It's annoying that Silverfish like to munch on household items.
- 34) Silverfish move in a way that is similar to how a fish swims.
- 35) It is fascinating how silverfish can live in such dark and damp places.
- 36) Silverfish do not harm humans or pets, but they can damage household items.
- 37) Silverfish are mostly active during the night time.
- 38) Silverfish are really cool bugs because they wiggle around like fish.
- 39) Because they eat sugar, dandruff, and glue, Silverfish have the weirdest diet.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 40) You can often find silverfish in dark damp places.
- 41) A silverfish becomes an adult immediately after it hatches from an egg.
- 42) Silverfish get their name from their shiny, silver-grey color and the way they move similar to fish.
- 43) Silverfish are large, golden insects.
- 44) Silverfish can live for up to eight years.
- 45) Silverfish eat only sugar and dandruff.
- 46) Silverfish are green and move like a snake.
- 47) Silverfish pose a direct threat to humans and pets.
- 48) Silverfish love to eat paper and fabric.
- 49) Silverfish are nocturnal animals.

**Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.**

- 50) Silverfish can't see very well in bright light.
  - A. can not
  - B. cannot
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- 51) Silverfish won't come out if they are scared.
  - A. will not
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1. \_\_\_\_\_ 26. \_\_\_\_\_ 51. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 27. \_\_\_\_\_ 52. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \_\_\_\_\_ 53. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 29. \_\_\_\_\_ 54. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \_\_\_\_\_ 55. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ 31. \_\_\_\_\_ 56. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 32. \_\_\_\_\_ 57. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ 33. \_\_\_\_\_ 58. \_\_\_\_\_
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15. \_\_\_\_\_ 40. \_\_\_\_\_ 65. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_ 41. \_\_\_\_\_ 66. \_\_\_\_\_
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21. \_\_\_\_\_ 46. \_\_\_\_\_
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- |     |              |     |                |     |                      |
|-----|--------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1.  | <b>B</b>     | 26. | <b>Would</b>   | 51. | <b>A</b>             |
| 2.  | <b>D</b>     | 27. | <b>Not</b>     | 52. | <b>D</b>             |
| 3.  | <b>A</b>     | 28. | <b>Would</b>   | 53. | <b>A</b>             |
| 4.  | <b>B</b>     | 29. | <b>Would</b>   | 54. | <b>C</b>             |
| 5.  | <b>C</b>     | 30. | <b>fact</b>    | 55. | <b>exclamatory</b>   |
| 6.  | <b>B</b>     | 31. | <b>opinion</b> | 56. | <b>imperative</b>    |
| 7.  | <b>C</b>     | 32. | <b>fact</b>    | 57. | <b>interrogative</b> |
| 8.  | <b>C</b>     | 33. | <b>opinion</b> | 58. | <b>exclamatory</b>   |
| 9.  | <b>C</b>     | 34. | <b>fact</b>    | 59. | <b>declarative</b>   |
| 10. | <b>Not</b>   | 35. | <b>opinion</b> | 60. | <b>interrogative</b> |
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| 14. | <b>Not</b>   | 39. | <b>opinion</b> | 64. | <b>imperative</b>    |
| 15. | <b>Not</b>   | 40. | <b>true</b>    | 65. | <b>exclamatory</b>   |
| 16. | <b>Would</b> | 41. | <b>false</b>   | 66. | <b>imperative</b>    |
| 17. | <b>Would</b> | 42. | <b>true</b>    |     |                      |
| 18. | <b>Would</b> | 43. | <b>false</b>   |     |                      |
| 19. | <b>Not</b>   | 44. | <b>true</b>    |     |                      |
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