



Imagine a creature that looks like a blend of an alligator and an insect, welcome to the world of alligator bugs! These fascinating tiny beings, also known as rove beetles, are named for their long bodies and fierce jaws that resemble those of an alligator. They are usually shiny black or brown and have wings tucked underneath their bodies. Despite their fierce name and look, they're really tiny, usually less than an inch long!



Speaking of tiny, let's dive into their tiny world and see where these mini alligators hang out. Alligator bugs call the soil their home, living under logs, rocks, and leaves where it's damp and dark. They're found all over the world, from the Americas to Asia, and from forests to your own backyard garden. So next time you're out in the garden, remember, there might be a tiny alligator lurking in the soil!

Now that we know where they live, let's find out what's on the menu for these little creatures. Alligator bugs are the good guys in the bug world, they're carnivores that feast on other insects, including harmful pests. They use their strong jaws to catch and eat their prey, helping to keep the balance in the ecosystem. So while they might look a bit scary, they're actually helping us by eating up bugs that can harm our plants!

From eating bugs to helping humans, let's find out more about their life cycle and defenses. The life of an alligator bug starts as an egg, then it hatches into a larva, grows into a pupa, and finally becomes an adult beetle. When threatened, these bugs can release a foul-smelling liquid to scare away predators. So, even though they're tiny and might look a bit like alligators, they're harmless to us but super helpful in keeping other bugs in check!



**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) Which is NOT part of the life cycle of an alligator bug?
  - A. Pupa
  - B. Larva
  - C. Sprout
  - D. Egg
- 2) How do alligator bugs defend themselves?
  - A. They camouflage themselves
  - B. They release a foul-smelling liquid
  - C. They release a loud sound
  - D. They bite with their strong jaws
- 3) How long are alligator bugs usually?
  - A. Less than an inch long
  - B. About 6 inches long
  - C. About 1 foot long
  - D. Microscopic
- 4) Where can alligator bugs be found?
  - A. Only in Africa
  - B. Only in the Americas
  - C. All over the world
  - D. Only in Asia
- 5) What do alligator bugs eat?
  - A. Insects
  - B. Plants
  - C. Dirt
  - D. Human blood
- 6) What color are alligator bugs usually?
  - A. Green and yellow
  - B. Blue and purple
  - C. Black or brown
  - D. Red and orange
- 7) Which choice is a place alligator bugs would NOT live?
  - A. Under leaves
  - B. Under water
  - C. Under rocks
  - D. Under logs
- 8) Are alligator bugs harmful to humans?
  - A. No
  - B. Only adults
  - C. Yes
  - D. Only babies
- 9) How does alligator bugs help keep the balance in the ecosystem?
  - A. By pollinating flowers
  - B. By spreading seeds
  - C. By eating harmful pests
  - D. By creating new homes for other bugs
- 10) What do alligator bugs use to catch and eat their prey?
  - A. Their strong jaws
  - B. Their long antennae
  - C. Their sharp claws
  - D. Their sticky tongues
- 11) What are alligator bugs also known as?
  - A. Beetle gators
  - B. Bug alligators
  - C. Rover bugs
  - D. Rove beetles

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



- 12) "My weak jaw doesn't allow me to eat much."
- 13) "When someone threatens me, I don't do anything."
- 14) "Some people call me a rove beetle."
- 15) "You could possibly spot me anywhere around the globe, even in your garden."
- 16) "I love basking under the bright sun at the beach."
- 17) "When I feel threatened, I have a secret weapon, a smelly liquid that scares predators away."
- 18) "I got my name because of my resemblance to an alligator."
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- 24) "Insects beware! I'm a carnivore and I feast on harmful pests, using my strong jaws."
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- 26) "My favorite type of places are damp and dark."
- 27) "I immediately transform from an egg to an adult beetle."
- 28) "I might look scary, but I am really tiny and only about an inch long."
- 29) "I make my home in comfy soil, under logs and rocks."

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

- 30) Alligator bugs are found worldwide.
- 31) Alligator bugs are the best kind of bugs to have in your garden.
- 32) Alligator bugs live in soil beneath rocks, logs, and leaves.
- 33) The way alligator bugs use their jaws to catch and eat other insects is really cool.
- 34) Alligator bugs are also known as rove beetles.
- 35) It's pretty amazing that alligator bugs can defend themselves by releasing a bad smell.
- 36) Alligator bugs can release a foul-smelling liquid when threatened.
- 37) Alligator bugs are small, usually less than one inch long.
- 38) Alligator bugs look scary because of their long bodies and jaws.
- 39) Alligator bugs are the neatest looking insect on the planet.

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

- 40) Alligator bugs can release a foul-smelling liquid.
- 41) The alligator bug is a pest that harms plants.
- 42) The life of an alligator bug starts as an egg.
- 43) Alligator bugs prefer to eat the leaves from elm trees.
- 44) Alligator bugs are mostly found in Asia and the Americas.



- 45) Alligator bugs bites are harmful to humans.
- 46) Alligator bugs live high up in trees.
- 47) Alligator bugs do not have wings.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 50) Alligator bugs lay eggs in the soil.
- 51) It's astounding how alligator bugs can survive underwater for so long!
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| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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- |                                 |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 51. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 2. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>       | 52. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 3. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 53. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 4. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 54. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 5. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        | 55. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 6. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     | 56. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 7. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        | 57. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 8. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     | 58. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 9. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 34. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
| 10. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     |   |
| 11. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 36. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
| 12. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 37. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
| 13. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 38. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     |   |
| 14. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 39. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     |   |
| 15. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 40. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        |   |
| 16. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 41. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>       |   |
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| 18. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 43. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>       |   |
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| 25. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 50. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u> |   |



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Which is NOT part of the life cycle of an alligator bug? (paragraph 4)  
A. Pupa  
B. Sprout  
C. Pupa  
D. Sprout
- 2) How do alligator bugs defend themselves? (paragraph 4)  
A. They camouflage themselves  
B. They release a foul-smelling liquid  
C. They camouflage themselves  
D. They release a foul-smelling liquid
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A. Less than an inch long  
B. About 6 inches long  
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D. About 6 inches long
- 4) Where can alligator bugs be found? (paragraph 2)  
A. Only in Africa  
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C. All over the world  
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C. Insects  
D. Plants
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A. No  
B. Only adults  
C. No  
D. Only adults
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A. By eating harmful pests  
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12) "My weak jaw doesn't allow me to eat much." (paragraph 3)