



Guess who's tiny, brown, and has a violin-like marking on its back? That's right, it's the brown recluse spider! This little arachnid is about the size of a quarter, including its legs, and its color can vary from sandy beige to dark brown. The marking on its back, which kind of looks like a violin, is one of the things that sets the brown recluse apart from other spiders. Another unique feature is that it has only six eyes instead of the usual eight that most spiders have!



If you're wondering where this six-eyed creature calls home, you'll find them mostly in the central and southern parts of the United States. They prefer to live in dark, secluded places, like under rocks or in woodpiles, and they even sometimes sneak into people's houses! These spiders are not social, so they like to be alone most of the time. And when it comes to dinner time, they like to feast on little insects like cockroaches and crickets.

Now let's talk about the life cycle of our violin-backed friend. The female brown recluse lays eggs in a sticky, off-white silken sac, and after about a month, tiny spiderlings emerge. These little ones grow up to become adults in about a year, and can live for two to four years, which is quite long for a spider. Did you know that these spiders play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling the population of the insects they eat?



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Now, you might be wondering, do these spiders get along with humans? Well, brown recluse spiders are actually quite shy and prefer to keep to themselves rather than interact with humans or other animals. They only bite when they feel threatened, and their venom can be harmful to humans, so it's best to leave them alone if you see one. And that's our little six-eyed, violin-backed friend, the brown recluse spider, a unique creature that prefers a quiet life, munching on insects and playing its part in the balance of



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) What color can the brown recluse spider be?  
A. Red and yellow  
B. Beige to brown  
C. Black and white  
D. Green and blue
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A. In the southern part of Mexico  
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D. They always live with other types of spiders.
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D. Seeds

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



- 11) "My back has a marking which is shaped like a violin. It helps others identify me and my kind."
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**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 28) Brown recluse spiders prefer to stay in dark, hidden places.
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**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

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## Brown Recluse Spider

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 31. _____ | 56. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 32. _____ | 57. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 33. _____ | 58. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 34. _____ | 59. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 35. _____ | 60. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 36. _____ | 61. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 37. _____ |           |
| 13. _____ | 38. _____ |           |
| 14. _____ | 39. _____ |           |
| 15. _____ | 40. _____ |           |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |           |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |           |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |           |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |           |
| 20. _____ | 45. _____ |           |
| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |           |
| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |           |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ |           |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ |           |
| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |           |



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

- 48) They'd rather stay hidden than interact with humans.  
A. They did B. They would  
C. They had D. They will
- 49) Their bites aren't usually dangerous, but it's still important to be careful.  
A. are not B. were not  
C. is not D. will not
- 50) Brown recluse spiders don't have eight eyes like most spiders.  
A. does not B. will not  
C. cannot D. do not
- 51) If you spot one, it's best to keep your distance.  
A. it is B. it was  
C. it does D. it has
- 52) They're not very big, usually about the size of a quarter.  
A. They do B. They is  
C. They are D. They were

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

- 53) Brown recluse spiders are also known as fiddleback or violin spiders.  
54) Brown recluse spiders can survive in extreme weather conditions, that's incredible!  
55) Brown recluse spiders have a violin-shaped marking on their bodies.  
56) What do brown recluse spiders eat?  
57) Why are brown recluse spiders called "recluse"?  
58) The fact brown recluse spiders can survive without food or water for up to six months is incredible!  
59) Brown recluse spiders are usually light to medium brown in color.  
60) Are brown recluse spiders venomous?  
61) Their venom is strong enough to cause serious skin reactions, it's scary but true!



## Brown Recluse Spider

Name: **Answer Key**

- |                                 |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>     | 51. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u>   | 52. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 3. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 53. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 4. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 54. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 5. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 55. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 6. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 56. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 7. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 57. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 8. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 58. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
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| 16. <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>   | 41. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   |   |
| 17. <u>    <b>Not</b>    </u>   | 42. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |
| 18. <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u> | 43. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   |   |
| 19. <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u> | 44. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   |   |
| 20. <u>    <b>Would</b>    </u> | 45. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   |   |
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C.  
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- 11) "My back has a marking which is shaped like a violin. It helps others identify me and my kind." (paragraph 1)



- 12) "If you see me, it's best to leave me alone unless you want to get bitten. My venom is dangerous for humans." (paragraph 4)