



Get ready to meet a cool insect that clicks and flips - the click beetle! These tiny performers are usually brown or black, and their body shape is long and slender. They range in size from 2.5 to 18 mm, so some are as tiny as a grain of rice while others are as big as a peanut. What makes them special is a unique hinge they have on their body that makes a clicking sound and causes them to flip into the air when they feel threatened.



Speaking of threats, let's talk about where these acrobatics masters live and what might make them click and flip. Click beetles can be found all over the world, from North America to Europe, Asia, and Africa, living in fields, forests, and even your own backyard. They love to hide under the bark of trees, inside plant stems, or under rocks. Now you know where to look if you want to find one!

You might wonder, what do these beetles eat? Well, adult click beetles like to munch on nectar, pollen, and sometimes soft parts of plants. Their larvae, known as wireworms, have a different diet and feed on roots of plants, sometimes causing damage to crops. So, these beetles can be both friends and foes to farmers.

You've learned about their looks, where they live, and what they eat, but what about their lifecycle? Click beetles lay their eggs in the soil, and the larvae can live underground for up to four years before they become adult beetles. Unlike butterflies or bees, click beetles don't make a cocoon or hive, but they do have a pupal stage before they become adults. So, these fascinating beetles are not only acrobats but also masters of transformation!

From their unique clicking and flipping to their long underground childhood, click beetles sure are interesting insects!



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

- 1) What do the larvae of click beetles eat?
  - A. Roots of plants
  - B. Insects
  - C. Leaves
  - D. Nectar and pollen
- 2) Where do click beetles lay their eggs?
  - A. In the soil
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  - C. In the bark of trees
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- 3) What is the unique feature on the body of a click beetle?
  - A. Sharp claws for digging
  - B. An abdomen that make a rattling noise
  - C. A hinge that allows them to click and flip
  - D. Antennae that sense vibration
- 4) Where do click beetles like to hide?
  - A. Under the bark of trees
  - B. In the water
  - C. In the leaves of plants
  - D. In bird's nests
- 5) What do adult click beetles NOT eat?
  - A. Pollen
  - B. Soil
  - C. Nectar
  - D. The soft parts of plants
- 6) How big can a click beetle be?
  - A. They are about the size of a ruler
  - B. They are microscopic
  - C. They vary in size
  - D. They are the size of a pencil
- 7) Where can you find click beetles?
  - A. Only in North America
  - B. Only in Asia
  - C. All over the world
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- 8) What do click beetles do when they feel threatened?
  - A. They play dead
  - B. They release a foul smelling toxin
  - C. They spit a poisonous venom
  - D. They click and flip into the air
- 9) How long can the larvae of click beetles live underground?
  - A. Up to one year
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- 10) If you wanted to find a click beetle in the wild where would be the best place to look?
  - A. A beach
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  - C. A river
  - D. A Forest
- 11) What is the color of most click beetles?
  - A. Green or yellow
  - B. Brown or black
  - C. Blue or purple
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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'm not an insect."
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- 14) "Adult click beetles like me aren't much of a threat to crops, but our larvae can be."
- 15) "I'm the beetle that clicks and flips! When I feel danger, I use my special hinge to flip high into the air."
- 16) "My body shape is round and chubby."
- 17) "While we don't make cocoons, we do have a pupal stage where we grow and change."
- 18) "You may not see us immediately because we might be hiding under rocks."
- 19) "I solely live in desert areas."
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- 21) "I make a cocoon when I transform."
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- 27) "I don't have a pupal stage in my lifecycle."
- 28) "After laying eggs in the soil, our babies or larvae can stay there for up to four years before becoming adult click beetles like me."
- 29) "You can find my friends and I almost everywhere. Expect to spot us in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa."

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

- 30) Click beetles hide under the bark of trees, inside plant stems, or under rocks.
- 31) Click beetles dark color makes them look very scary.
- 32) Click beetles can be found in numerous places around the world including North America and Africa.
- 33) Click beetles are quite amazing because of their unique ability to click and flip in the air.
- 34) Click beetles are usually brown or black in color.
- 35) The sound of a click beetle flipping is the coolest sound an insect can make.
- 36) The larvae of click beetles can live underground for up to four years before they become adult beetles.
- 37) Click beetles can make a clicking sound and flip into the air when they feel threatened.
- 38) It is fascinating that click beetles have a long underground childhood before they become adults.
- 39) Click beetles are the most interesting type of beetle.

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

- 40) Adult click beetles like to munch on nectar and pollen.
- 41) Click beetles are as big as a mouse.
- 42) Baby click beetles are known as liveworms.
- 43) Click beetles got their name because they make a clicking noise before attacking.
- 44) Click beetles hide under rocks.
- 45) Click beetles can be found only in North America.
- 46) The larvae of click beetles can live underground for up to twenty years before they become adult beetles.
- 47) Wireworms feed on the leaves of plants and bark of trees.
- 48) Click beetles lay their eggs in the soil.
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- |                                 |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 51. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 2. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>       | 52. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 3. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 53. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 4. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 54. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 5. <u>    <b>B</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>C</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        | 57. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 8. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     | 58. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 9. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 34. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
| 10. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     |   |
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| 12. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 37. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
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| 16. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 41. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>       |   |
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| 25. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 50. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u> |   |

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B. Insects  
C.  
D.
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B.  
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12) "I'm not an insect." (paragraph 1)