



Imagine a beetle, not just any beetle, but one of the largest, most impressive beetles in the world - the Hercules beetle! These incredible insects are famous for their size, which can reach up to 6.7 inches long, and their spectacular horn-like structures, which males use to battle each other. The Hercules beetle is shiny and can be green, gray, or brown, and it's known to change its color, almost like magic, depending on the light and the humidity. With their strong bodies, they can carry up to 850 times their own weight, making them one of the strongest creatures on earth.

Speaking of their strength, ever wondered what kind of meals fuel these mighty creatures? Hercules beetles are natural recyclers as they love munching on rotting wood and fruits for dinner. They play a very important role in the ecosystem by helping to break down and recycle dead plants. But remember, just like us, they need water to live, so they often live near streams or places where they can easily access water.

Now that we know what they eat and where they live, let's dive into their fascinating life cycle. Hercules beetles start their life as tiny eggs, which then hatch into larvae, the stage at which they do most of their growing. They then change into pupae, sort of like beetle teenagers, before finally becoming adult Hercules beetles. This entire process can take up to two years, which is quite long for an insect.



We've learned so much about these amazing beetles, but how do they interact with humans and other animals? In general, they are harmless to humans and prefer to avoid confrontation, using their impressive horns to defend themselves if necessary. They are often kept as pets due to their unique appearance and low maintenance, and have a peaceful relationship with other animals. So, next time you think of Hercules, don't just think of the strong hero from Greek mythology, but also remember the mighty Hercules beetle, one of the largest and strongest beetles in the world.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) How do Hercules beetles use their horns?
 - A. to dig burrows
 - B. to battle each other
 - C. to protect their eggs
 - D. to swim in water

- 2) Why are Hercules beetles called recyclers?
 - A. They collect and store food for the winter
 - B. They help bees recycle nectar into honey
 - C. They break down and recycle dead plants
 - D. They naturally sort plastic from organic waste

- 3) What do Hercules beetles eat?
 - A. nectar from flowers
 - B. other insects
 - C. grass and leaves
 - D. rotting wood and fruits

- 4) Why are Hercules beetles often kept as pets?
 - A. because they can perform tricks
 - B. due to their unique appearance and low maintenance
 - C. because they are rare and valuable
 - D. because they are friendly and playful

- 5) Are Hercules beetles harmful to humans?
 - A. Only males beetles
 - B. Yes
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- 6) What is the Hercules beetle famous for?
 - A. their long lives
 - B. their ability to change color
 - C. their size and horn-like structures
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- 7) How do Hercules beetles help the ecosystem?
 - A. by pollinating flowers
 - B. by providing food for other animals
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- 8) Where would you most likely find a Hercules beetles living?
 - A. near a stream
 - B. In an urban area
 - C. At the top of a mountain
 - D. in the desert

- 9) Do Hercules beetles have a long or short life cycle compared to other insects?
 - A. Short
 - B. Long
 - C. Depends on the specific beetle
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- 10) How long does it take for a Hercules beetle to complete its life cycle?
 - A. up to six months
 - B. up to one year
 - C. up to five years
 - D. up to two years

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

1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- 11) "I can lift 10,000 times my own weight."
- 12) "No one can match my strength. I can lift things 850 times heavier than my own body weight!"
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- 14) "I don't need fancy food. Give me rotting wood or fruits, that's my kind of meal!"
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- 18) "I play my part in keeping nature clean. I help break down and recycle dead plants."
- 19) "My transformation from a tiny egg to an adult happens in a few weeks."
- 20) "My life cycle is very short."
- 21) "I've got pretty amazing horns on my head! I use them to wrestle with other males."
- 22) "My horns are just for show, they serve no real purpose."
- 23) "I need water to live, so I like to be near streams or places where it's easy for me to find water."
- 24) "I'm usually peaceful and try and avoid conflicts. But if necessary, I will use my horns to defend myself."
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Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 30) Hercules beetles can live up to two years.
- 31) Hercules beetles are not at all scary, they are just unique-looking.
- 32) Hercules beetles are often found eating decaying wood and fruits.
- 33) I think it's amazing how Hercules beetles can change their color, almost like magic.
- 34) Hercules beetles can be among the largest beetles in the world, reaching lengths of over 6 inches.
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- 38) Having a Hercules beetle as a pet can be very interesting due to their unique appearance.
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Determine if the statement is true or false.

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- 64) Observe the unique patterns on the exoskeleton of Hercules beetles.
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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> D </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> A </u> |
| 4. <u> B </u> | 29. <u> false </u> | 54. <u> C </u> |
| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> imperative </u> |
| 7. <u> D </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> interrogative </u> |
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| 10. <u> D </u> | 35. <u> opinion </u> | 60. <u> interrogative </u> |
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