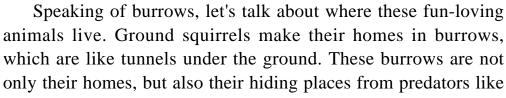


"Zip, zap, zoom!" Meet the ground squirrel, a feisty little creature that loves to dart around in the grasslands and forests. These cute critters are covered in fur that comes in shades of brown, grey, and sometimes black, which helps them blend into their surroundings. They are usually about 9 to 11 inches long, which is about the size of a big ruler, and they have bushy tails that add another 5 to 9 inches to their length. Ground squirrels have strong legs that are just perfect for digging burrows and running fast when they need to.





foxes and hawks. You'll find these burrows in a variety of places, like grasslands, forests, and even in your own backyard if you live near their wild habitats!

Just like us, ground squirrels need food to stay healthy and active. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and small animals. Their diet includes nuts, seeds, fruits, vegetables, and sometimes insects and small birds. But did you know they hibernate in winter? They store food in their burrows to eat when they wake up in the spring.



Ground squirrels have a pretty cool life cycle and relationship with humans and other animals. Did you know that they hibernate in winter and wake up in spring? When they wake up, it's time to find a mate and have babies! While they might be a little naughty by digging holes in lawns, they also eat harmful insects, helping us in their own little way. And let's not forget, their alert calls warning of predators are a great help to other animals too. So, that's the story of the

ground squirrel, a small animal with a big personality!



#### Solve each problem.

### Use the article to answer the question.

1) Why are ground squirrels sometimes considered helpful to humans?

A. They are great climbers

B. They let

B. They keep larger animals away from

homes

C. They are good pets

D. They eat harmful insects

2) Where do ground squirrels make their homes?

A. Under rocks B. In trees

C. On tree branches D. Underground

3) What do ground squirrels use their strong legs for?

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5) When do ground squirrels wake up from hibernation?

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6) What color does the fur of a ground squirrel come in?

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7) Who are the predators of ground squirrels?

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8) What do ground squirrels do during the winter?

A. They build nests in dense shrubs

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C. They hibernate D. They migrate to warmer places

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

9) "I travel south during the winter."

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13) "My home is a tunnel under the ground! I use it to sleep and hide from other animals."

**14)** "My tail is short, probably as short as your little finger."

15) "Unlike you, I hibernate in winter. I sleep for a long time and wake up in spring.","

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1-10										
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0

Name:

- - 17) "My fur changes color to green in the summer, to blend with the grass."
  - "Before hibernating, I don't gather any food. I find fresh food in the middle of winter."
  - **19**) "My menu is quite diverse because I eat plants and small animals."

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

- **20**) Ground squirrels usually have brown, grey or black coloured fur.
- 21) Ground squirrels are the cutest when they stand on their hind legs, showing off their long tails.
- **22**) Ground squirrels hibernate during winter months.
- 23) Ground squirrels eating small birds is the most interesting thing about their diet.
- 24) Burrows, used as homes and safe places from predators, are where ground squirrels usually live.
- 25) Ground squirrels are annoying because they eat plants and damage gardens.
- **26)** Ground squirrels store food in their burrows to eat during hibernation in winter
- **27**) Ground squirrels eat a combination of plants and animals.
- 28) Ground squirrels are the best animals to watch because they are always so active.
- It is quite extraordinary how ground squirrels store food in their burrows for the whole winter.

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

- **30**) Ground squirrels warn other animals of predators with their calls.
- **31)** Ground squirrels make their homes high in trees.
- **32)** Ground squirrels are omnivores.
- **33**) Ground squirrels eat only small animals.
- 34) Not only do ground squirrels eat nuts and fruits, they also eat small birds.
- **35)** Ground squirrels hibernate in the summer.
- **36)** Ground squirrels are carnivores.
- **37**) Ground squirrels are usually 4 to 6 feet long.
- Ground squirrels are usually shades of brown, grey or black.
- **39**) Ground squirrels hibernate during winter.

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

- **40**) They're known for their bushy tails.
  - A. there are B. they are C. their are D. they were
- **41**) When <u>it's</u> winter, ground squirrels hibernate.
  - A. it is B. it has C. it was D. it were



### **Ground Squirrel**

Name:

42) Ground squirrels aren't just one color.

A. is not

B. were not

C. am not

D. are not

**43**) Ground squirrels <u>can't</u> fly, but they're good climbers.

A. cannot

B. c

C. will not

D. must not

44) They don't just eat plants, they eat insects too!

A. cannot

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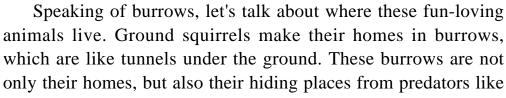
- **46)** Do ground squirrels hibernate during winter?
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	Ground Squ	ıirrel	Name:
1.	26.		
2.	27.		
3.	28.		
4.	29.		
5.	30.		
6.	31.		
7.	32.	<u></u>	
8.	33.		
9.	34.		
10.	35.	<u> </u>	
11.	36.		
12.	37.		
13.	38.	_	
14.	39.	_	
15.	40.	_	
16.	41.		
17.	42.		
18.	43.	_	
19.	44.	_	
20.	45.	_	
21.	46.	_	
22.	47.	_	
23.	48.		
24.	49.		

50.



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## Name: Answer Key

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Name:

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**Ground Squirrel** 

Name: Answer Key

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1.	D	26.	fact
2.	<b>D</b>	27.	fact
3.	A	28.	opinion
4.	A	29.	opinion
5.	C	30.	true
6.	<b>D</b>	31.	false
7.	D	32.	true
8.	C	33.	false
9.	false	. 34.	true
10.	true	35.	false
11.	false	36.	false
12.	false	37.	false
13.	true	38.	true
14.	false	. 39.	true
15.	true	40.	B
16.	true	41.	A
17.	false	42.	D
18.	false	43.	A
19.	true	. 44.	C
20.	fact	45.	declarative
21.	opinion	. 46.	interrogative
22.	fact	47.	declarative
23.	opinion	48.	declarative
24.	fact	49.	interrogative
25.	opinion	50.	interrogative

B.



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