



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

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

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

- 5) Are Hercules beetles harmful to humans?
 - A. Only female beetles
 - B. Yes
 - C. Only males beetles
 - D. No

- 6) What is the Hercules beetle famous for?
 - A. their size and horn-like structures
 - B. their long lives
 - C. their great swimming ability
 - D. their ability to change color

- 7) How do Hercules beetles help the ecosystem?
 - A. by breaking down and recycling dead plants
 - B. by providing food for other animals
 - C. by creating underground burrows
 - D. by pollinating flowers

- 8) Where would you most likely find a Hercules beetles living?
 - A. in the desert
 - B. In an urban area
 - C. near a stream
 - D. At the top of a mountain

- 9) Do Hercules beetles have a long or short life cycle compared to other insects?
 - A. The same as other insects
 - B. Depends on the specific beetle
 - C. Short
 - D. Long

- 10) How long does it take for a Hercules beetle to complete its life cycle?
 - A. up to six months
 - B. up to two years
 - C. up to one year
 - D. up to five 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."
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- 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.
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- 33) I think it's amazing how Hercules beetles can change their color, almost like magic.
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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. _____ |
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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
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| 3. <u> B </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> A </u> |
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| 9. <u> D </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | 59. <u> declarative </u> |
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