



Imagine walking in the forest and spotting a creature with hundreds of tiny legs, that's a millipede! These amazing little critters are invertebrates, meaning they don't have a backbone, and are known for their long, cylindrical bodies covered in hard shells. Each segment of their body has two pairs of legs, so when they move, it looks like a wave motion! They come in many colors, from black to brown, and even eye-catching shades of orange or red.



The fascinating wave motion mentioned earlier helps millipedes thrive in their homes. Their habitats are usually moist places like under leaves, in the soil, or within decayed logs, where they stay during the day. At night, they become more active, crawling out to munch on their favorite foods, mainly decaying plant material, but they've also been known to eat insects. These creatures prefer to live where there's plenty of their favorite meals, making them super important for composting and recycling nutrients in the environment.

Just like us humans, millipedes have a life cycle, but it's a bit different from ours. They start as eggs, laid in the soil, and when they hatch, they only have a few segments and legs. As they grow and molt - that's when they shed their skin - they add more segments and legs until they become adults. In some species, this process can take up to two years, and they can live for several years after that.



You might be wondering what happens if a predator tries to snack on them. Well, they have a cool defense mechanism - when threatened, they curl up into a tight coil to protect their soft undersides with their hard outer shell. Some species can also release a foul-smelling and tasting liquid to deter predators. So, while they might not win any races with their many tiny legs, millipedes sure are fascinating creatures playing an important role in our ecosystems.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is the shape of a millipedes body?
 - A. Flat
 - B. Cylindrical
 - C. Round
 - D. Oval

- 2) Where would you normally NOT find millipedes during the day?
 - A. Under leaves
 - B. Inside tree trunks
 - C. On top of rocks
 - D. Within decayed logs

- 3) Where are millipede eggs laid?
 - A. in the water
 - B. in trees
 - C. in rotting fruits
 - D. in the soil

- 4) Millipedes are invertebrates. What does being an invertebrate mean?
 - A. Millipedes don't have a backbone
 - B. Millipedes have bones on the outside
 - C. Millipedes have vertebrates inside
 - D. Millipedes have multiple backbones

- 5) What can some millipedes do to defend themselves when threatened?
 - A. Make a loud screaming noise
 - B. Release a foul-smelling and tasting liquid
 - C. Excrete a very potent toxin from their skin
 - D. Spit a black sticky goo

- 6) What do millipedes eat?
 - A. fresh fruits
 - B. smaller mammals
 - C. the blood of humans
 - D. decaying plant material

- 7) What is molting?
 - A. when millipedes eat a lot of food
 - B. when millipedes shed their skin
 - C. when millipedes gain their wings
 - D. when millipedes build their nests

- 8) How long can some millipedes live?
 - A. only a few weeks
 - B. several years
 - C. up to one year
 - D. up to five months

- 9) What color are millipedes?
 - A. Many colors
 - B. Only red or brown
 - C. Only black
 - D. Only brown

- 10) What defense may millipedes do when they feel threatened?
 - A. play dead
 - B. curl up into a tight coil
 - C. detach 1 or two of their segments
 - D. spit a black ooze

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

- 11) "I have one pair of legs on each segment."

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



- 12) "I adore open and dry places."
- 13) "I can be black, brown, or even bright orange or red! Look at my colors!"
- 14) "I only have 6 of legs."
- 15) "Decaying plants and insects, yuck! I prefer fresh food."
- 16) "I don't care much for the ground; I prefer staying in trees."
- 17) "My favorite food is decaying plant materials and sometimes insects. I feed on them, mainly at nighttime."
- 18) "It can take me up to two years to grow up and I can live for many years after."
- 19) "Did you know? I don't have a backbone! That's what being an invertebrate is all about."
- 20) "I don't change much as I grow."
- 21) "I thrive in sunny and dry conditions."
- 22) "I like to show my soft belly to predators."
- 23) "I always stay in moist environments, you might find me under piles of leaves or decayed logs during the day."
- 24) "I only eat fresh vegetables."
- 25) "When I feel threatened, I can release a bad-smelling and tasting liquid to keep predators away."
- 26) "During my growth, each time I shed my skin, I also add more legs and segments!"
- 27) "When I hatch from an egg, I don't look quite like the millipede you know! But with time, I gain more segments and legs until I am all grown up."
- 28) "I was born with all my segments and legs."
- 29) "I have a long body covered in a hard shell, and my hundreds of little legs move together like a wave."
- 30) "If a predator comes near, I curl my soft belly within my hard shell to remain safe."

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

- 31) When millipedes are growing, they shed their skin and add more segments and legs.
- 32) The fact that millipedes curl up into a tight coil to protect themselves is very clever.
- 33) Millipedes frequently live in moist places like under leaves or within rotting logs.
- 34) Millipedes with their hundreds of tiny legs are such peculiar creatures.
- 35) Millipedes are creatures that have no backbone.
- 36) Millipedes' life cycle process of adding more segments and legs as they grow is very interesting.
- 37) Some millipedes can release a bad smelling and tasting liquid to drive off predators.
- 38) Each segment of a millipede's body has two pairs of legs.
- 39) The wave like motion millipedes make when they move is truly fascinating.
- 40) Bright colored millipedes look much cooler than the dull ones.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 41) Millipedes can live up to two years.



- 66) It's amazing how millipedes help break down and recycle organic matter!
- 67) Always wash your hands after touching a millipede.



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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> B </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> A </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> D </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> true </u> | 54. <u> A </u> |
| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> true </u> | 55. <u> C </u> |
| 6. <u> D </u> | 31. <u> fact </u> | 56. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 7. <u> B </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> | 57. <u> imperative </u> |
| 8. <u> B </u> | 33. <u> fact </u> | 58. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 9. <u> A </u> | 34. <u> opinion </u> | 59. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 10. <u> B </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> declarative </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> opinion </u> | 61. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> fact </u> | 62. <u> declarative </u> |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> fact </u> | 63. <u> interrogative </u> |
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12) "I adore open and dry places." (paragraph 2)