



Let's jump into the world of an extraordinary critter, the camel cricket! These amazing insects get their name from their humpbacked appearance, similar to a camel. They have long, spider-like legs and bodies that can grow up to 1.5 inches long. Their color ranges from light to dark brown, allowing them to blend in with their surroundings.



From their unique looks, we hop to their fascinating homes and diets. Camel crickets are found all over the world, especially in cool, damp places like caves, under stones, and in human basements. They are omnivorous scavengers, which means they'll munch on just about anything, from fungi, plant materials, to even other insects. Sometimes, they even eat each other when food is scarce!

Now that we've explored their homes and diets, let's leap into their life cycle and interactions. Camel crickets go through three stages: egg, nymph, and adult. They usually keep to themselves but can be a nuisance to humans when they invade homes, though they do not pose any serious threats. In the wild, they serve as a food source for other animals and help in breaking down decaying plant material.



From their role in the ecosystem, let's bounce to some unique facts and differences. Unlike their cricket cousins, camel crickets do not chirp because they don't have wings. Their 'humpback' design and long legs differentiate them from other cricket species and help them jump high when they are threatened. So, next time you spot a silent, jumping critter in your basement, remember it might just be a harmless camel cricket playing its part in the circle of life.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is the color of camel crickets?
 - A. They are colorful with vibrant red and yellow patterns.
 - B. They are transparent and can blend with any color.
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 - A. They are found in hot, dry desert environments.
 - B. They are found in cool, damp places.
 - C. They are commonly found in vast, open grassland.
 - D. They live in tall trees within dense rainforests.
- 7) What do camel crickets eat?
 - A. They prey solely on other insects and small animals.
 - B. They eat just about anything, from fungi to other insects.
 - C. They feed exclusively on blood of larger animals.
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- 8) Which is not a stage camel crickets go through in their life cycle?
 - A. Pupa
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- 9) What is the size of a fully grown camel cricket?
 - A. About the size of an apple seed
 - B. About an inch and a half
 - C. They are microscopic
 - D. They are half a foot long



Camel Crickets

Name:

10) Do camel crickets pose a serious threat to humans?

- A. Yes, they can be harmful to humans.
- B. No, they do not pose any serious threats to humans.
- C. They have a poisonous bite that can harm humans.
- D. They can spread dangerous diseases to humans rapidly.

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

- 11) "I am only found in tropical areas."
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- 18) "When you're as small as me, you have to eat almost anything and everything you find."
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- 20) "I only eat plant materials, I never eat insects."
- 21) "We camel crickets have beautiful wings!"
- 22) "I go through only two stages: egg, and adult."
- 23) "I'm actually pretty important. I help to break down decaying plants."
- 24) "I can grow up to 3 inches long."
- 25) "While my cricket cousins sing, I don't have wings so you won't hear me at night."
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- 27) "I really like cool, damp places so that's where you're most likely to run across me."
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- 29) "I am bigger than you think! I can even grow up to an inch and half long."
- 30) "From a tiny egg to a big cricket, we go through three stages, laying eggs and then growing up!"

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

- 31) Camel crickets are omnivorous and eat a variety of things, including plant materials and other insects.
- 32) The fact that camel crickets eat each other when they are hungry is really interesting.
- 33) These crickets are often found in cool, damp places like caves and basements.
- 34) Camel crickets are the coolest type of cricket because they don't chirp like their cousins.
- 35) Camel crickets are named so because of their humped backs.
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- 37) Camel crickets do not chirp because they lack wings.
- 38) Camel crickets can grow up to almost 2 inches long.
- 39) Camel crickets ability to jump so high is the best thing about them.
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Determine if the statement is true or false.



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- 46) Camel crickets are mostly found in deserts, like camels.
- 47) Many people keep camel crickets as pets and enjoy their chirping.
- 48) Camel crickets are carnivores.
- 49) Camel crickets are mostly harmless to humans.
- 50) Camel crickets are named for their humpbacked appearance.

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

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 56) Camel crickets are omnivorous and feed on a variety of things like dead insects, plant matter, and even other camel crickets.
- 57) It's interesting to note that Camel crickets are not actually true crickets!
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- 59) How do camel crickets get their name?
- 60) What do camel crickets eat?
- 61) It's disgusting that camel crickets may eat each other if food is scarce!
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- 63) What are some predators of camel crickets?
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Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____ 51. _____

2. _____ 27. _____ 52. _____

3. _____ 28. _____ 53. _____

4. _____ 29. _____ 54. _____

5. _____ 30. _____ 55. _____

6. _____ 31. _____ 56. _____

7. _____ 32. _____ 57. _____

8. _____ 33. _____ 58. _____

9. _____ 34. _____ 59. _____

10. _____ 35. _____ 60. _____

11. _____ 36. _____ 61. _____

12. _____ 37. _____ 62. _____

13. _____ 38. _____ 63. _____

14. _____ 39. _____ 64. _____

15. _____ 40. _____

16. _____ 41. _____

17. _____ 42. _____

18. _____ 43. _____

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24. _____ 49. _____

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Camel Crickets

Name: **Answer Key**

1. C	26. Would	51. B
2. A	27. Would	52. A
3. A	28. Not	53. D
4. C	29. Would	54. A
5. C	30. Would	55. C
6. B	31. fact	56. declarative
7. B	32. opinion	57. exclamatory
8. A	33. fact	58. declarative
9. B	34. opinion	59. interrogative
10. B	35. fact	60. interrogative
11. Not	36. opinion	61. exclamatory
12. Not	37. fact	62. declarative
13. Would	38. fact	63. interrogative
14. Not	39. opinion	64. exclamatory
15. Not	40. opinion	
16. Not	41. true	
17. Would	42. false	
18. Would	43. true	
19. Would	44. false	
20. Not	45. true	
21. Not	46. false	
22. Not	47. false	
23. Would	48. false	
24. Not	49. true	
25. Would	50. true	



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C. D.

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C. D.

- 10) Do camel crickets pose a serious threat to humans? (paragraph 3)
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C. D.



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