



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. Their color ranges from light to dark brown.
 - C. They are transparent and can blend with any color.
 - D. They are black and white, like a zebra.

- 2) What do camel crickets get their name from?
 - A. They tend to hang around camels
 - B. Their ability to go a long time without water
 - C. Because they spit like a camel does
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- 3) What happens when food is scarce for camel crickets?
 - A. They migrate to find new food sources.
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 - A. They make a loud noise to scare off predators.
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- 5) How does a camel crickets chirp compare to other crickets chirp?
 - A. Camel crickets chirps are much quieter.
 - B. Camel crickets produce a low buzzing sound instead of chirping.
 - C. Camel crickets do not chirp.
 - D. Camel crickets chirps are much louder.

- 6) Where can we commonly find camel crickets?
 - A. They are found in cool, damp places.
 - B. They are commonly found in vast, open grassland.
 - C. They live in tall trees within dense rainforests.
 - D. They are found in hot, dry desert environments.

- 7) What do camel crickets eat?
 - A. They feed only on nectar and pollen from flowers.
 - B. They feed exclusively on blood of larger animals.
 - C. They prey solely on other insects and small animals.
 - D. They eat just about anything, from fungi to other insects.

- 8) Which is not a stage camel crickets go through in their life cycle?
 - A. Pupa
 - B. Nymph
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- 9) What is the size of a fully grown camel cricket?
A. About the size of an apple seed B. They are microscopic
C. About an inch and a half D. They are half a foot long
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A. They can spread dangerous diseases to humans rapidly. B. They have a poisonous bite that can harm humans.
C. Yes, they can be harmful to humans. D. No, they do not pose any serious threats to humans.

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

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