



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. Their color ranges from light to dark brown.
  - B. They are black and white, like a zebra.
  - C. They are transparent and can blend with any color.
  - D. They are colorful with vibrant red and yellow patterns.
- 2) What do camel crickets get their name from?
  - A. Their humpbacked appearance
  - B. They tend to hang around camels
  - C. Their ability to go a long time without water
  - D. Because they spit like a camel does
- 3) What happens when food is scarce for camel crickets?
  - A. They hibernate until food is available again.
  - B. They migrate to find new food sources.
  - C. They may eat other camel crickets.
  - D. They grow smaller and require less food.
- 4) What do camel crickets do when they are threatened?
  - A. They play dead when threatened.
  - B. 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 do not chirp.
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- 6) Where can we commonly find camel crickets?
  - A. They are found in hot, dry desert environments.
  - B. They live in tall trees within dense rainforests.
  - C. They are commonly found in vast, open grassland.
  - D. They are found in cool, damp places.
- 7) What do camel crickets eat?
  - A. They eat just about anything, from fungi to other insects.
  - B. They prey solely on other insects and small animals.
  - C. They feed exclusively on blood of larger animals.
  - D. They feed only on nectar and pollen from flowers.
- 8) Which is not a stage camel crickets go through in their life cycle?
  - A. Pupa
  - B. Adult
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- 9) What is the size of a fully grown camel cricket?
- A. They are half a foot long                      B. They are microscopic  
C. About an inch and a half                      D. About the size of an apple seed
- 10) Do camel crickets pose a serious threat to humans?
- A. They can spread dangerous diseases to humans rapidly.                      B. They have a poisonous bite that can harm humans.  
C. No, they do not pose any serious threats to humans.                      D. Yes, they can be harmful to humans.

**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."  
12) "I love chirping all night long."  
13) "I'm not just an American cricket. You can find me all over the world."  
14) "I just love the scorching heat of the desert."  
15) "I prefer living in hot, dry places."  
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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."  
26) "Sometimes, when food is scarce, I might even nibble on another camel cricket."  
27) "I really like cool, damp places so that's where you're most likely to run across me."  
28) "I only eat fresh food, never scavenged."  
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.

- 36) Camel crickets are the scariest type of cricket because of their humpbacked bodies.
- 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.
- 40) Having camel crickets in your home isn't really a problem as they are just looking for a place to live, and they don't bite.

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

- 41) Camel crickets serve as a food source for other animals.
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- 43) Camel crickets help in breaking down decaying plant material.
- 44) Camel crickets can grow up to 6 inches long.
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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.**

- 51) They can't fly, but their jumping skills help them escape from predators.  
A. will not  
B. cannot  
C. are not  
D. do not
- 52) It's fun to learn about camel crickets and their unique behaviors.  
A. It is  
B. It does  
C. It has  
D. It will
- 53) Camel crickets don't have wings like other crickets.  
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**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?
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- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 31. _____ | 56. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 32. _____ | 57. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 33. _____ | 58. _____ |
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| 15. _____ | 40. _____ |           |
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- |                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>A</u>      | 26. <u>true</u>    | 51. <u>B</u>             |
| 2. <u>A</u>      | 27. <u>true</u>    | 52. <u>A</u>             |
| 3. <u>C</u>      | 28. <u>false</u>   | 53. <u>D</u>             |
| 4. <u>D</u>      | 29. <u>true</u>    | 54. <u>A</u>             |
| 5. <u>A</u>      | 30. <u>true</u>    | 55. <u>C</u>             |
| 6. <u>D</u>      | 31. <u>fact</u>    | 56. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 7. <u>A</u>      | 32. <u>opinion</u> | 57. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 8. <u>A</u>      | 33. <u>fact</u>    | 58. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 9. <u>C</u>      | 34. <u>opinion</u> | 59. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 10. <u>C</u>     | 35. <u>fact</u>    | 60. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 11. <u>false</u> | 36. <u>opinion</u> | 61. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
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| 15. <u>false</u> | 40. <u>opinion</u> |                          |
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- 1) What is the color of camel crickets? (paragraph 1)  
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C. \_\_\_\_\_  
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