



Imagine meeting a creature that looks like a spider, but isn't quite a spider! That's a camel spider for you. These fascinating creatures have two big jaws that take up almost 1/3 of their body size, and have eight legs, just like their spider buddies. But don't be scared, they're harmless to humans and aren't as big as the Internet might have you think!

So where do these interesting critters live, you ask? Camel spiders, also known as solifuges, are found in hot desert regions around the world, including the Middle East and southwestern United States. They prefer to stay hidden during the day to avoid the scorching sun and come out at night to hunt for food. Their food of choice? Insects, rodents, and sometimes even small birds!

Now, let's talk about the life cycle of our eight-legged desert friend. After a male and female camel spider pair up, the female lays her eggs in a burrow and guards them until they hatch. The tiny spiderlings then leave the nest to start life on their own, growing and shedding their skin several times before reaching adulthood. Unlike many spiders, camel spiders don't spin webs and prefer to chase down their prey instead.



Wondering how they get along with other creatures? Well, camel spiders are solitary creatures and don't interact much with other animals, except when they're hunting. Their big jaws are their main form of defense and are also used to catch and eat their prey. So in conclusion, camel spiders are unique creatures that are different from other spiders in many ways, such as not spinning webs and having a different lifestyle.



**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What do camel spiders use their large jaws for?
  - A. Digging burrows
  - B. Building their nests
  - C. Climbing trees
  - D. Catching and eating their prey
- 2) Where can you find camel spiders in the United States?
  - A. The North East
  - B. The South West
  - C. The South East
  - D. The North West
- 3) Where can you find camel spiders?
  - A. In hot desert regions
  - B. In the Arctic regions
  - C. In city areas
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- 4) About how large are the camel spider's jaws?
  - A. Twice as large as their body
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  - C. They don't have jaws
  - D. Almost a 1/3 of their body
- 5) How many eyes does a camel spider have?
  - A. Four
  - B. Eight
  - C. Seven
  - D. Six
- 6) Are camel spiders harmful to humans?
  - A. Only males camel spiders
  - B. No
  - C. Only female camel spiders
  - D. Yes
- 7) What is another name for camel spiders?
  - A. Solifuges
  - B. Sand spiders
  - C. Scorpion spiders
  - D. Desert crabs
- 8) When do camel spiders come out to hunt for food?
  - A. During the day
  - B. In the morning
  - C. At noon
  - D. At night
- 9) What do camel spiders eat?
  - A. They eat seeds, nuts and legumes.
  - B. They eat plants and leaves.
  - C. They don't eat and live on sunlight only.
  - D. They eat insects, rodents, and small birds.
- 10) What forms the main defense for camel spiders?
  - A. Their venom
  - B. Their long legs
  - C. Their speed
  - D. Their big jaws

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

- 11) "Building webs is my favorite pastime activity."
- 12) "I prefer to sit and wait for my prey rather than chasing it down."



- 13) "As a newborn baby camel spider, I wander away from mom to set up a home of my own."
- 14) "During daytime you won't find me walking around. I prefer to stay hidden and avoid the heat."
- 15) "I prefer to stay around water bodies rather than desert regions."
- 16) "After waking up at night, I go hunting for juicy insects and rodents."
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- 18) "I love to roam around during the day under the hot sun."
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- 22) "After I lay my eggs, I carefully guard them from harm until they hatch."
- 23) "Unlike my other eight-legged relatives, I don't spin webs. I prefer to chase down my food instead."
- 24) "While some insects like damp, cool places, give me a hot desert any day of the week."
- 25) "My large jaws are not just for eating my prey, I also use them to defend myself."
- 26) "My diet is primarily composed of plants and leaves."
- 27) "I grow up and shed my skin a bunch of times before I'm all grown."
- 28) "Look at my big jaws! They take up almost one-third of my body size."

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

- 29) Female camel spiders lay their eggs in a burrow and protect them till they hatch.
- 30) The thought of a camel spider eating a small bird is terrifying.
- 31) Camel spiders avoid the sun and are more active at night.
- 32) Having such big jaws is what makes camel spiders so special.
- 33) Camel spiders have large jaws that make up almost a third of their body size.
- 34) Camel spiders, with their eight legs and two big jaws, look quite scary.
- 35) Unlike many other spiders, camel spiders do not spin webs.
- 36) Camel spiders can be found in desert regions around the world including the Middle East and southwestern United States.
- 37) Their hunting technique of chasing their prey is more exciting than waiting for it in a web.
- 38) Camel spiders are scarier than most other spiders.

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

- 39) Camel spiders may eat rodents.
- 40) The camel spiderlings stay in the burrow until they are fully grown.
- 41) Camel spiders typically only hunt at night.
- 42) Camel spiders bites may be fatal to humans.
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- 45) Camel spiderlings go into a cocoon and emerge fully grown.
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- 49) Camel spiders are nocturnal creatures.
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- |                                 |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>       | 51. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 2. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 52. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 3. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>        | 53. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 4. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        | 54. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 5. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     | 55. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 6. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        | 56. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 7. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     | 57. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 8. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
| 9. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 34. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>     |   |
| 10. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
| 11. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 36. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>        |   |
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