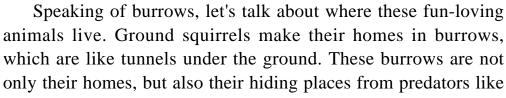


"Zip, zap, zoom!" Meet the ground squirrel, a feisty little creature that loves to dart around in the grasslands and forests. These cute critters are covered in fur that comes in shades of brown, grey, and sometimes black, which helps them blend into their surroundings. They are usually about 9 to 11 inches long, which is about the size of a big ruler, and they have bushy tails that add another 5 to 9 inches to their length. Ground squirrels have strong legs that are just perfect for digging burrows and running fast when they need to.





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Ground squirrels have a pretty cool life cycle and relationship with humans and other animals. Did you know that they hibernate in winter and wake up in spring? When they wake up, it's time to find a mate and have babies! While they might be a little naughty by digging holes in lawns, they also eat harmful insects, helping us in their own little way. And let's not forget, their alert calls warning of predators are a great help to other animals too. So, that's the story of the

ground squirrel, a small animal with a big personality!



#### Solve each problem.

## Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Why are ground squirrels sometimes considered helpful to humans?
  - A. They eat harmful insects

- B. They are good pets
- C. They keep larger animals away from
- D. They are great climbers

homes

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- 6) What color does the fur of a ground squirrel come in?
  - A. Red, Yellow, and Blue

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- 8) What do ground squirrels do during the winter?
  - A. They hibernate

- B. They build nests in dense shrubs
- C. They migrate to warmer places
- D. They do not change their habits

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

- **9**) "I travel south during the winter."
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- **16**) "I help spread seeds when I bury my food. Nature's little gardener, that's me!"

	_
Reading	

Name:

- - 17) "My fur changes color to green in the summer, to blend with the grass."
  - "Before hibernating, I don't gather any food. I find fresh food in the middle of winter."
  - **19**) "My menu is quite diverse because I eat plants and small animals."

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

- **20**) Ground squirrels usually have brown, grey or black coloured fur.
- 21) Ground squirrels are the cutest when they stand on their hind legs, showing off their long tails.
- **22**) Ground squirrels hibernate during winter months.
- 23) Ground squirrels eating small birds is the most interesting thing about their diet.
- 24) Burrows, used as homes and safe places from predators, are where ground squirrels usually live.
- 25) Ground squirrels are annoying because they eat plants and damage gardens.
- **26)** Ground squirrels store food in their burrows to eat during hibernation in winter
- **27**) Ground squirrels eat a combination of plants and animals.
- 28) Ground squirrels are the best animals to watch because they are always so active.
- It is quite extraordinary how ground squirrels store food in their burrows for the whole winter.

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

- **30**) Ground squirrels warn other animals of predators with their calls.
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- **32)** Ground squirrels are omnivores.
- **33**) Ground squirrels eat only small animals.
- 34) Not only do ground squirrels eat nuts and fruits, they also eat small birds.
- **35**) Ground squirrels hibernate in the summer.
- **36)** Ground squirrels are carnivores.
- **37**) Ground squirrels are usually 4 to 6 feet long.
- Ground squirrels are usually shades of brown, grey or black.
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# Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- **40**) They're known for their bushy tails.
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  - A. it is B. it has C. it was D. it were



## **Ground Squirrel**

Name:

42) Ground squirrels aren't just one color.

A. is not

B. were not

C. am not

D. are not

**43**) Ground squirrels <u>can't</u> fly, but they're good climbers.

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B. c

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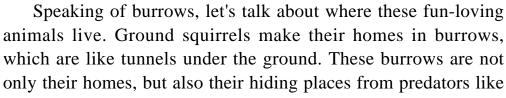
	Ground Squirrel	Name:
1.	26.	
2.	27.	
3.	28.	
4.	29.	
5.	30.	
6.	31.	
7.	32.	
8.	33.	
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10.	35.	
11.	36.	
12.	37.	
13.	38.	
14.	39.	
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16.	41.	
17.	42.	
18.	43.	
19.	44	
20.	45.	
21.	46.	
22.	47.	
23.	48.	

24.

50.



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Answer Key

Name:

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**Ground Squirrel** 

Name: Answer Key

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2.       B       27.       fact         3.       C       28.       opinion         4.       A       29.       opinion         5.       D       30.       true         6.       D       31.       false         7.       A       32.       true         8.       A       33.       false         9.       false       34.       true         10.       true       35.       false         11.       false       36.       false         12.       false       37.       false	
4.       A       29.       opinion         5.       D       30.       true         6.       D       31.       false         7.       A       32.       true         8.       A       33.       false         9.       false       34.       true         10.       true       35.       false         11.       false       36.       false	
4.       A       29.       opinion         5.       D       30.       true         6.       D       31.       false         7.       A       32.       true         8.       A       33.       false         9.       false       34.       true         10.       true       35.       false         11.       false       36.       false	
5.       D       30.       true         6.       D       31.       false         7.       A       32.       true         8.       A       33.       false         9.       false       34.       true         10.       true       35.       false         11.       false       36.       false	
6. D 31. false 7. A 32. true 8. A 33. false 9. false 34. true 10. true 35. false 11. false 36. false	
7.       A       32.       true         8.       A       33.       false         9.       false       34.       true         10.       true       35.       false         11.       false       36.       false	
8.       A       33.       false         9.       false       34.       true         10.       true       35.       false         11.       false       36.       false	
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10.       true       35.       false         11.       false       36.       false	
11. <b>false</b> 36. <b>false</b>	
folio folio	
13. <b>true</b> 38. <b>true</b>	
14. <b>false</b> 39. <b>true</b>	
15. <b>true</b> 40. <b>B</b>	
16. <b>true</b> 41. <b>A</b>	
17. <b>false</b> 42. <b>D</b>	
18. <b>false</b> 43. <b>A</b>	
19. <b>true</b> 44. <b>C</b>	
20. <b>fact</b> 45. <b>declarative</b>	—— е
21. <b>opinion</b> 46. <b>interrogativ</b>	
22. <b>fact</b> 47. <b>declarative</b>	
23. <b>opinion</b> 48. <b>declarativ</b>	
24. <b>fact</b> 49. <b>interrogativ</b>	e
25. <b>opinion</b> 50. <b>interrogativ</b>	



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U	se	the	artic	le to	answer	the	question.
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C. D.

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C. Digging burrows D.

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