



Imagine walking in the forest and spotting a creature with hundreds of tiny legs, that's a millipede! These amazing little critters are invertebrates, meaning they don't have a backbone, and are known for their long, cylindrical bodies covered in hard shells. Each segment of their body has two pairs of legs, so when they move, it looks like a wave motion! They come in many colors, from black to brown, and even eye-catching shades of orange or red.



The fascinating wave motion mentioned earlier helps millipedes thrive in their homes. Their habitats are usually moist places like under leaves, in the soil, or within decayed logs, where they stay during the day. At night, they become more active, crawling out to munch on their favorite foods, mainly decaying plant material, but they've also been known to eat insects. These creatures prefer to live where there's plenty of their favorite meals, making them super important for composting and recycling nutrients in the environment.

Just like us humans, millipedes have a life cycle, but it's a bit different from ours. They start as eggs, laid in the soil, and when they hatch, they only have a few segments and legs. As they grow and molt - that's when they shed their skin - they add more segments and legs until they become adults. In some species, this process can take up to two years, and they can live for several years after that.



You might be wondering what happens if a predator tries to snack on them. Well, they have a cool defense mechanism - when threatened, they curl up into a tight coil to protect their soft undersides with their hard outer shell. Some species can also release a foul-smelling and tasting liquid to deter predators. So, while they might not win any races with their many tiny legs, millipedes sure are fascinating creatures playing an important role in our ecosystems.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What is the shape of a millipedes body?  
A. Oval  
B. Cylindrical  
C. Round  
D. Flat
- 2) Where would you normally NOT find millipedes during the day?  
A. Within decayed logs  
B. Inside tree trunks  
C. On top of rocks  
D. Under leaves
- 3) Where are millipede eggs laid?  
A. in trees  
B. in the water  
C. in the soil  
D. in rotting fruits
- 4) Millipedes are invertebrates. What does being an invertebrate mean?  
A. Millipedes have vertebrates inside  
B. Millipedes have bones on the outside  
C. Millipedes have multiple backbones  
D. Millipedes don't have a backbone
- 5) What can some millipedes do to defend themselves when threatened?  
A. Release a foul-smelling and tasting liquid  
B. Make a loud screaming noise  
C. Excrete a very potent toxin from their skin  
D. Spit a black sticky goo
- 6) What do millipedes eat?  
A. smaller mammals  
B. the blood of humans  
C. fresh fruits  
D. decaying plant material
- 7) What is molting?  
A. when millipedes eat a lot of food  
B. when millipedes gain their wings  
C. when millipedes build their nests  
D. when millipedes shed their skin
- 8) How long can some millipedes live?  
A. only a few weeks  
B. up to five months  
C. up to one year  
D. several years
- 9) What color are millipedes?  
A. Many colors  
B. Only red or brown  
C. Only brown  
D. Only black
- 10) What defense may millipedes do when they feel threatened?  
A. play dead  
B. detach 1 or two of their segments  
C. curl up into a tight coil  
D. spit a black ooze

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

- 11) "I have one pair of legs on each segment."



- 12) "I adore open and dry places."
- 13) "I can be black, brown, or even bright orange or red! Look at my colors!"
- 14) "I only have 6 of legs."
- 15) "Decaying plants and insects, yuck! I prefer fresh food."
- 16) "I don't care much for the ground; I prefer staying in trees."
- 17) "My favorite food is decaying plant materials and sometimes insects. I feed on them, mainly at nighttime."
- 18) "It can take me up to two years to grow up and I can live for many years after."
- 19) "Did you know? I don't have a backbone! That's what being an invertebrate is all about."
- 20) "I don't change much as I grow."
- 21) "I thrive in sunny and dry conditions."
- 22) "I like to show my soft belly to predators."
- 23) "I always stay in moist environments, you might find me under piles of leaves or decayed logs during the day."
- 24) "I only eat fresh vegetables."
- 25) "When I feel threatened, I can release a bad-smelling and tasting liquid to keep predators away."
- 26) "During my growth, each time I shed my skin, I also add more legs and segments!"
- 27) "When I hatch from an egg, I don't look quite like the millipede you know! But with time, I gain more segments and legs until I am all grown up."
- 28) "I was born with all my segments and legs."
- 29) "I have a long body covered in a hard shell, and my hundreds of little legs move together like a wave."
- 30) "If a predator comes near, I curl my soft belly within my hard shell to remain safe."

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

- 31) When millipedes are growing, they shed their skin and add more segments and legs.
- 32) The fact that millipedes curl up into a tight coil to protect themselves is very clever.
- 33) Millipedes frequently live in moist places like under leaves or within rotting logs.
- 34) Millipedes with their hundreds of tiny legs are such peculiar creatures.
- 35) Millipedes are creatures that have no backbone.
- 36) Millipedes' life cycle process of adding more segments and legs as they grow is very interesting.
- 37) Some millipedes can release a bad smelling and tasting liquid to drive off predators.
- 38) Each segment of a millipede's body has two pairs of legs.
- 39) The wave like motion millipedes make when they move is truly fascinating.
- 40) Bright colored millipedes look much cooler than the dull ones.

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

- 41) Millipedes can live up to two years.

- 42) When threatened, millipedes stand tall and make a loud noise.
- 43) Millipedes are invertebrates.
- 44) Each segment of a millipede's body has 4 pairs of legs.
- 45) Millipedes can only be found in wet places like under leaves or within decayed logs.
- 46) Millipedes are only black in color.
- 47) When millipedes hatch they look like tiny adults.
- 48) During the day, millipedes are most active.
- 49) Some species of millipedes can release a foul-smelling liquid to deter predators.
- 50) Millipedes have hundreds of tiny legs.

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

- 51) Some millipedes can glow in the dark, isn't that cool?  
A. does not  
B. is not  
C. are not  
D. cannot
- 52) Millipedes won't harm your plants, they actually help improve the soil.  
A. will not  
B. can not  
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- 53) Millipedes don't have 1,000 legs as their name might suggest.  
A. cannot  
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- 54) Millipedes aren't fast movers, but they're great at burrowing.  
A. are not  
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- 55) Millipedes can't see very well, so they rely on their sense of touch.  
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 56)** It's astonishing that millipedes can live up to 10 years!
- 57)** Observe how millipedes curl up into a tight ball when they feel threatened.
- 58)** How do millipedes protect themselves?
- 59)** It's amazing that millipedes have been on earth for over 400 million years!
- 60)** Millipedes live in damp, dark places like under rocks and in decaying wood.
- 61)** How many legs do millipedes have?
- 62)** Millipedes curl up into a spiral shape and can release a smelly liquid when threatened.
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- 66) It's amazing how millipedes help break down and recycle organic matter!
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1. _____	26. _____	51. _____
2. _____	27. _____	52. _____
3. _____	28. _____	53. _____
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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. _____	65. _____
16. _____	41. _____	66. _____
17. _____	42. _____	67. _____
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- |                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>B</u>      | 26. <u>true</u>    | 51. <u>B</u>             |
| 2. <u>C</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>exclamatory</u>   |
| 7. <u>D</u>      | 32. <u>opinion</u> | 57. <u>imperative</u>    |
| 8. <u>D</u>      | 33. <u>fact</u>    | 58. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 9. <u>A</u>      | 34. <u>opinion</u> | 59. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 10. <u>C</u>     | 35. <u>fact</u>    | 60. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 11. <u>false</u> | 36. <u>opinion</u> | 61. <u>interrogative</u> |
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