



Imagine a tiny creature, dressed in a fiery red armor, no bigger than a grain of rice, meet the fire ant! These fascinating little critters have a reddish-brown color, almost like a tiny spark of fire. They are known for their distinctive mound-shaped nests, which they build using soil. And they've got a sting that's as fiery as their color, which is how they got their name.

Now that we've seen their fiery exterior, let's peek into their homes. Fire ants live all over the world, but mostly in warm climates like the southern parts of the United States.

They build large colonies in soil, with mounds that can be up to 18 inches high. Inside these mounds, they make a network of tunnels and chambers where they live and raise their young.

From their fiery houses, these little warriors venture out in search of food. They are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and other small creatures. Their diet includes seeds, fruits, insects, and even small animals. In fact, they are known to attack in groups to take down larger prey.



Fire ants are not just interesting, they're also important players in the ecosystem. They help control pests by eating other insects and small animals. However, they can also be a nuisance to humans, as their stings are painful and can cause allergic reactions. So next time you see a mound in the ground, remember the fiery little warriors beneath, and keep a respectful distance.

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

- 1) What choice is a color that fire ants may be?
 - A. blue
 - B. yellow
 - C. green
 - D. brown

- 2) How do fire ants help control pests?
 - A. by releasing a natural pesticide
 - B. by building walls to keep pests out
 - C. by eating other insects and small animals
 - D. by scaring away pests

- 3) How do fire ants defend themselves?
 - A. by flying away
 - B. by hiding in their nest
 - C. by making loud noises
 - D. with their sting

- 4) What do fire ants eat?
 - A. both plants and other small creatures
 - B. only plants
 - C. only other small creatures
 - D. they do not eat

- 5) Do fire ant stings cause allergic reactions?
 - A. Yes
 - B. Only in animals
 - C. No
 - D. Only in some people

- 6) What do fire ants use to build their nests?
 - A. rocks
 - B. twigs
 - C. leaves
 - D. soil

- 7) Where do fire ants live mostly?
 - A. hot environments like deserts
 - B. cold climates like the North Pole
 - C. warm climates like the southern parts of the United States
 - D. wet environments like marshes and swamps

- 8) How big can a fire ant mound be?
 - A. up to 1 mile
 - B. up to 18 inches
 - C. up to 10 feet
 - D. up to 3 inches

- 9) What is the size of a fire ant?
 - A. About the size of a golf ball
 - B. About the size of a grain of rice
 - C. About the size of a cell phone
 - D. Microscopic

- 10) Which choice best describes fire ants diets?
 - A. plants only
 - B. animals only
 - C. fire ants do not eat
 - D. plants and animals

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

- 11) "Plants and small creatures, we consume them all, we are true omnivores."



- 12) "Fear our strength! Even large prey is vulnerable when we attack in groups."
- 13) "Some people think our homes look like tiny volcanoes. They are mounds built from soil."
- 14) "We pose no nuisance to humans."
- 15) "Our homes beneath the mounds are interconnected by tunnels and chambers where we raise our young."
- 16) "I just adore cold climates, the chillier the better."
- 17) "I am a peaceful ant and not a warrior."
- 18) "Our stings can be quite a bother to humans, they can cause painful allergic reactions."
- 19) "By dining on other insects and small animals, we assist in pest control."
- 20) "We're pretty small. Usually around the size of a rice grain."
- 21) "I couldn't survive in warm climates."
- 22) "The mounds we build can be up to 18 inches high. That's probably as tall as your desk."
- 23) "I am a vegetarian."
- 24) "We fire ants live all over the world, but we prefer warm places like the southern parts of the United States."
- 25) "Our colonies are always small less than an inch tall."
- 26) "Sting? No way, I'm a peaceful creature."
- 27) "Beware of my sting, it burns like fire, hence my name - fire ant."

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

- 28) Fire ants help to control pests by eating other insects and small animals.
- 29) Fire ants stings, which are very painful, make them very scary to be around.
- 30) Fire ants are omnivores, they eat both plants and other creatures.
- 31) The mounds that fire ants build are fascinating to see.
- 32) Fire ants build their homes in soil, forming mounds.
- 33) Fire ants are more fun to learn about than regular ants.
- 34) A fire ant sting can cause painful allergic reactions in humans.
- 35) Fire ant colonies can be found in warm climates, like southern parts of the United States.
- 36) The reddish-brown color of fire ants is quite beautiful.
- 37) Fire ants are extraordinary because they can conquer larger prey.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Fire ants may eat fruits and seeds.
- 39) Unlike other ants, fire ants build their homes in the trees.
- 40) Fire ants build their nests using soil.
- 41) Fire ants are typically dark brown, almost black.
- 42) Fire ants build mounds that can reach up to 18 inches in height.
- 43) Fire ant colonies are usually found in cold areas.
- 44) Fire ants do not have stingers and defend by biting.



- 65) Fire ants build their nests in mounds of soil outdoors or in decayed logs and around trees and stumps. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about fire ants?
- A. Fire ants are a type of marine ant.
 - B. Fire ants can adapt to both open and forested environments.
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- 66) Fire ants are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and other insects. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about how this could benefit the ants?
- A. Being omnivores allows fire ants to have a wider variety of food sources.
 - B. Being omnivores has no benefit for fire ants.
 - C. Being omnivores makes fire ants pickier eaters.
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- 67) Fire ants are known to prey on small animals and can even damage crops. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about fire ants?
- A. Fire ants solely feed on crops.
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- 68) When a fire ant mound is disturbed, the ants get aggressive and attack to defend their colony. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about fire ants?
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| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> C </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> C </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> | 54. <u> imperative </u> |
| 5. <u> A </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 6. <u> D </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 7. <u> C </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> declarative </u> |
| 8. <u> B </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | 58. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 9. <u> B </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | 59. <u> declarative </u> |
| 10. <u> D </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 11. <u> true </u> | 36. <u> opinion </u> | 61. <u> declarative </u> |
| 12. <u> true </u> | 37. <u> opinion </u> | 62. <u> imperative </u> |
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- 11) "Plants and small creatures, we consume them all, we are true omnivores." (paragraph 3)
- 12) "Fear our strength! Even large prey is vulnerable when we attack in groups." (paragraph 3)