



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. brown
  - B. blue
  - C. green
  - D. yellow
  
- 2) How do fire ants help control pests?
  - A. by releasing a natural pesticide
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  - C. by eating other insects and small animals
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- 3) How do fire ants defend themselves?
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- 4) What do fire ants eat?
  - A. only other small creatures
  - B. they do not eat
  - C. both plants and other small creatures
  - D. only plants
  
- 5) Do fire ant stings cause allergic reactions?
  - A. Only in some people
  - B. No
  - C. Only in animals
  - D. Yes
  
- 6) What do fire ants use to build their nests?
  - A. leaves
  - B. rocks
  - C. twigs
  - D. soil
  
- 7) Where do fire ants live mostly?
  - A. hot environments like deserts
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- 9) What is the size of a fire ant?
  - A. About the size of a cell phone
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  - C. Microscopic
  - D. About the size of a golf ball
  
- 10) Which choice best describes fire ants diets?
  - A. fire ants do not eat
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**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."
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- 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."
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- 23) "I am a vegetarian."
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- 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.
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**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.
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- 43) Fire ant colonies are usually found in cold areas.
- 44) Fire ants do not have stingers and defend by biting.





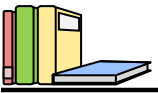
- 65) Fire ants build their nests in mounds of soil outdoors or in decayed logs and around trees and stumps. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about fire ants?
- A. Fire ants are a type of marine ant.
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  - C. Fire ants can't survive in outdoor 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.
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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?
- A. Fire ants have venomous stingers, but they prefer running away to using them.
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- 69) Fire ants have a painful sting and are more aggressive than other ant species. Based on this statement, what conclusion can we draw about the relationship between fire ants and humans?
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- |                                 |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 51. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 52. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 3. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 53. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 4. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 54. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 5. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 55. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 6. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 56. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 7. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 57. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 8. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 58. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 9. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 34. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 59. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
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| 15. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 40. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 65. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>             |
| 16. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 41. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 66. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 17. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 42. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 67. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
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| 22. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 47. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |
| 23. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 48. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>       |   |
| 24. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 49. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>       |   |
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