



Imagine a tiny bird with a big personality, that's the Montezuma quail for you! These little fellows, also called Mearns's quails, are quite the sight with their black and white spotted bodies and chestnut belly. Their heads are decorated with a white 'cotton ball' top and males have a bold black and white face pattern. These little birds are not only cute but also full of character and surprises!

From the colourful portrait we just painted, you might be wondering where such unique creatures live. The Montezuma quails are native to Mexico, but they can also be found in the southern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the United States. They feel right at home in grasslands, oak woodlands, and pine forests, where they can find plenty of cover. Despite their small size, these birds are experts when it comes to camouflage and hiding from danger.

Having touched on their expertise in hiding, it's only fair we delve into their daily routines and what they munch on. These birds are omnivores, which means they enjoy a diet of both plants and insects. Their favourite menu includes bulbs and tubers, but they also eat beetles, ants, and other small bugs when they can find them. Unlike other quail species that forage in open areas, Montezuma quails prefer to search for food under the cover of vegetation.

Finally, let's explore the fascinating life cycle of these adorable birds and their relationship with us humans. Montezuma quails form lifelong pairs and lay about a dozen eggs that hatch in less than a month. While they might be a bit shy around humans, they play an important role in our ecosystem by helping to control insect populations. So, not only are they a pretty sight, they also help us out in their own little way, making them a truly special bird!





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is the other name for Montezuma quails?
  - A. Mearns's quails
  - B. Speckled quails
  - C. Chaparral quails
  - D. California quails
  
- 2) What is a favorite food of Montezuma quails?
  - A. Seeds
  - B. Bulbs
  - C. Nuts
  - D. Tree bark
  
- 3) What country are Montezuma quails native to?
  - A. Canada
  - B. Mexico
  - C. Argentina
  - D. Brazil
  
- 4) What role do Montezuma quails play in the ecosystem?
  - A. They disperse seeds across the forest
  - B. They contribute to soil formation
  - C. They help to pollinate flowers
  - D. They help to control insect populations
  
- 5) How long does it take for Montezuma quail eggs to hatch?
  - A. About 6 months
  - B. About 2 days
  - C. About 2 months
  - D. Less than a month
  
- 6) What is the color of Montezuma quails' belly?
  - A. White
  - B. Grey
  - C. Black
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- 7) Where can Montezuma quails be found in the United States?
  - A. Eastern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas
  - B. Southern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas
  - C. Western parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas
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- 8) What kind of diet do Montezuma quails have?
  - A. Piscivorous diet
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  - A. More than twenty
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  - C. Only one
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  - A. Grasslands, oak woodlands, and pine forests
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  - D. Alpine meadows, tundra, and swamps

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

1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- 11) "I'm a vegetarian, I only eat plants."
- 12) "You see, dining is an important part of my day. It's when I munch on a mix of plants and insects."
- 13) "I'm an omnivore, which means I'll eat plants and meat."
- 14) "You can spot me easily by my black and white spotted body and chestnut belly."
- 15) "I prefer living in the wide-open grasslands, but oak woodlands and pine forests are also quite comfy for me."
- 16) "We are attracted to places with no vegetation."
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- 18) "I'm pretty shy around humans."
- 19) "I love roaming around in open spaces looking for food."
- 20) "We are native to Africa."
- 21) "You can find me around Mexico."
- 22) "My favorite place to live is the desert where there's no cover."
- 23) "My head has a white 'cotton ball' top, but only males have a bold black and white face pattern."
- 24) "My eggs take only a month to hatch."
- 25) "We Montezuma quails prefer to live alone."
- 26) "If you're looking for me in the United States, you should check in Texas, New Mexico or Arizona."
- 27) "You'll find me carefully searching for food under the cover of foliage, not out in open spaces like other quail."
- 28) "I don't like insects, they're not part of my diet."
- 29) "Did you know I come from the northern parts of the United States?"

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

- 30) The diet of a Montezuma quail consists of both plants and insects.
- 31) The Montezuma quail is the most unique species of quail.
- 32) Montezuma quails are found in Mexico, and the southern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the United States.
- 33) Montezuma quails are the best birds because they have a lifetime partner.
- 34) Montezuma quails have black and white spotted bodies.
- 35) It is amazing that Montezuma quails can lay over a dozen eggs.
- 36) Montezuma quails lay about a dozen eggs that take less than a month to hatch.
- 37) Male Montezuma quails can be identified by their black and white face pattern.
- 38) The Montezuma quail is the most unique looking bird, thanks to its black and white spotted body.
- 39) The "cotton ball" on top of a Montezuma quail's head is the most adorable thing about them.





- 60) Montezuma quails are remarkably elusive creatures, adding to their allure!
- 61) Montezuma quails can be found in the southwestern United States.
- 62) Do Montezuma quails build nests?
- 63) It's stunning that these quails prefer walking to flying!
- 64) Montezuma quails primarily feed on seeds, insects, and other small invertebrates.
- 65) How fast can Montezuma quails fly?
- 66) The way these animals blend into their habitat with distinctive camouflage is genuinely fascinating!
- 67) Where do Montezuma quails live?
- 68) These fascinating birds often live in pairs or small family groups, it's truly heartwarming!
- 69) The fact that these quails use their beaks to dig for bulbs and corms is so impressive!
- 70) How amazing that Montezuma quails can have up to 12 chicks at a time!
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- |                                 |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 51. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 52. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 3. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 53. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 4. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 54. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 5. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 55. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 6. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 56. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 7. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 57. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 8. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 58. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 9. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>      | 34. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 59. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 10. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 60. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 11. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 36. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 61. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 12. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 37. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 62. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 13. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 38. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 63. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
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| 16. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 41. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 66. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
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| 24. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 49. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |
| 25. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 50. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>       |   |



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