Did you know there's a tiny creature called a pillbug that rolls up into a ball when it feels scared? These little guys, also known as roly-polies, are not actually bugs at all, but crustaceans, like crabs or lobsters! They have a hard, segmented exoskeleton and, when they curl up, they look a lot like tiny armadillos. Pillbugs have seven pairs of legs and two pairs of antennae, one of which is hard to see.



Speaking of those hard-to-see antennae, they help pillbugs explore their favorite spots, which are usually damp and dark. You might find them under logs, rocks, and in your garden, where they feel at home in the soil. The reason they love these places is because they breathe through gills, just like fish! So, they need to stay in moist environments to breathe properly.

Now, you're probably wondering what these little soil dwellers eat, right? Well, pillbugs are nature's little recyclers, they munch on decayed plants and animal material, helping to break it down into nutrients that can be used again by other plants. That's why they're so beneficial to have in your garden, they're helping to make the soil richer! But they need to watch out for predators like birds, frogs, and spiders who find them quite tasty.



From their defensive curling to their garden recycling, pillbugs are truly fascinating creatures, aren't they? Their life cycle is interesting too - they undergo a process called molting, where they shed their hard exoskeleton to grow, just like snakes do with their skin. Female pillbugs even carry their eggs, and later, their babies in a special pouch on their belly, just like kangaroos. So, next time you see a pillbug, remember they're not just bugs, they're hard-working, soil-enriching, miniature crustaceans with a lot of exciting stories to tell!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) Where do female pillbugs carry their eggs and babies?

A. in their legs B. on their back

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2) Which best describes roly-polies?

A. Armadillos B. Insects D. Arachnids C. Crustaceans

3) What do pillbugs use to explore?

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A. ants, bees, and wasps B. lizards, mice, and snakes C. birds, frogs, and spiders D. rabbits, dogs, and cats

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8) How many pairs of legs do pillbugs have?

A. four B. seven C. two D. ten

9) Why do pillbugs need to stay in moist environments?

A. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to breathe properly.

D. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to find food.

C. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to stay clean.

10) Which place would you likely NOT find a pillbug living? A. Under logs B. In a tree

C. In the soil D. Under rocks

11) What are pillbugs also known as?

A. spiders B. beetles C. roly-polies D. millipedes

B. Pillbugs need to stay in moist

environments to sleep.



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

- 12) "I have one pair of antennae."
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- **31)** "Want to know a cool fact? To grow bigger, I shed my hard shell. It's a process called molting, sorta like how snakes shed their skin."

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

- 32) Birds, frogs, and spiders are some predators that pillbugs need to avoid.
- **33**) Roly-polies are the best animals to have in a garden.
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- **40**) The name roly-polie is better than pillbug.
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- **42**) Birds, frogs, and spiders eat pillbugs.
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- 44) Pillbugs break down decaying matter and enrich the soil.
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Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 52) They're also known as roly-polies or doodlebugs.
 - A. They were

B. They are

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- D. They do
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Pillbugs

Name:

- **62**) What are pillbugs also known as?
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	Pillbug	S	Name:	
1.	 26.	51.		
2.	 27.	52.		
3.	 28.	53.		
4.	 29.	54.		
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.	<u></u> 67		
18.	 43.	68.		
19.	 44.			
20.	 45.			
21.	46.			
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23.	 48.			

24.

50.

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Pillbugs

Name: Answer Key

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2.	C	27.	true	52.	В
3.	В	28.	true	53.	A
4.	C	29.	false	54.	D
5.	D	30.	true	55	A
6.	B	31.	true	56	C
7.	D	32.	fact	57	exclamatory
8.	B	33.	opinion	58	imperative
9.	A	34	fact	59	interrogative
10.	B	35.	opinion	60.	exclamatory
11.	C	36.	fact	61.	declarative
12.	false	37.	opinion	62.	interrogative
13.	false	38.	fact	63.	declarative
14.	true	39.	fact	64.	interrogative
15.	false	40.	opinion	65.	declarative
16.	false	41.	opinion	66.	imperative
17.	false	42.	true	67.	exclamatory
18.	true	43.	false	68.	imperative
19.	true	44.	true		
20.	true	45.	false		
21.	false	46.	true		
22.	false	47.	false		
23.	false	48.	false		
24.	true	49.	false		
25.	false	50.	true		

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