



Imagine a fuzzy, tiny creature crawling on a leaf, that's our friend, the puss caterpillar! Covered in a coat of long, silky hair, these little guys are often mistaken for cotton balls or tufts of fur. But don't be fooled, underneath that fluffy exterior, they have a dark brown body with a bright red face. A fun fact is, they're also known as 'asp' which means 'aspis' in Latin, referring to a small shield, thanks to their unique shape.



Speaking of shape, it's fun to know where these fascinating creatures call home. Puss caterpillars are found in many parts of the United States, particularly in the southern states. They love hanging out on shade trees and garden plants, so you might spot them while playing outside. Next time you're in the garden, keep an eye out for these fluffy critters!

Now that we know where to find them, let's discover what these shield-shaped bugs munch on. As caterpillars, they feed on the leaves of many different types of trees and plants. Once they've eaten enough, they form a cocoon, emerging later as a beautiful Southern Flannel Moth. Isn't it amazing how such a furry creature can transform into a graceful moth?



We've learned a lot about our fluffy friends, but there's one more surprising thing about puss caterpillars. While they look soft and cuddly, they have a secret weapon for defense – venomous spines hidden in their fur! If touched, they can cause a painful sting, so it's best to admire them from a distance. So, remember, while these cute caterpillars are fun to learn about, they're also a reminder that looks can be deceiving!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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

- 11) "I may look soft and cuddly, but don't be fooled, for my fluff hides venomous spines."
- 12) "When I emerge from my cocoon, instead of a butterfly, you'll see a moth."
- 13) "I hate the taste of leaves, fruits are my favorite!"
- 14) "You might mistake me for a cotton ball, my coat is so fluffy and silky."
- 15) "The southern states of the United States are where I feel most at home."



- 16) "We change from a caterpillar to a beautiful Southern Flannel Moth."
- 17) "I turn into a butterfly after leaving my cocoon."
- 18) "My shape is similar to a small shield, which is why some folks call me an 'asp.'"
- 19) "Unlike you, I do not eat fancy food. I love the simple greens- mostly leaves of different trees and plants."
- 20) "I have a pink body with a dark face."
- 21) "You can only find me in the northern United states of America."
- 22) "On hot summer days, you'll find me on shade trees, chilling out."
- 23) "Getting stung by me is no fun and can be painful. So, it's best to keep your distance."
- 24) "I eat meat, not leaves."
- 25) "If you see me in the garden, please come and pet me."
- 26) "We come in different shades of brown and have a bright red face."

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

27) As caterpillars, they primarily feed on leaves of many types of trees and plants.

28) Puss caterpillars are better looking before they transform into moths.

29) These creatures are mostly found in the United States, particularly in the southern parts.

30) There is nothing more surprising than finding out puss caterpillars are venomous.

31) Their body is dark brown and their face is bright red.

32) The red face of the puss caterpillar is cuter than that of any other caterpillar.

33) Puss caterpillars have venomous spines in their fur.

34) Puss caterpillars are also called asp.

35) Puss caterpillars have the best defense mechanism among all bugs.

36) Puss caterpillars should be named the cutest caterpillars.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 37) Puss caterpillars can found on shade trees.
- 38) People often pet the caterpillars as a way to relieve stress.
- 39) Puss caterpillars feed on the leaves of many different types of trees and plants.
- 40) Puss caterpillars have no defenses.
- 41) Puss caterpillars have venomous spines hidden in their fur.
- 42) Puss caterpillars have a bright blue face.
- 43) Puss caterpillars are only found in Asia.
- 44) Puss caterpillars are also known as asp, which means lion in Latin.
- 45) Puss caterpillars are also known as "asp."
- 46) Puss caterpillars are covered in a coat of silky hair.

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



Puss Caterpillar

Name: _____

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 52) It's unbelievable that underneath all that fur, the puss caterpillar carries a dangerous weapon - venomous spines!
- 53) Avoid handling puss caterpillars unless you are wearing protective gloves.
- 54) What do puss caterpillars eat?
- 55) It's incredible that puss caterpillars can eat so many types of leaves!
- 56) The puss caterpillar has soft, hair-like spines that cover its body.
- 57) How can you identify puss caterpillars?
- 58) Puss caterpillars enjoy munching on leaves from trees like oaks, elms, and citrus plants.
- 59) Where can we find puss caterpillars?
- 60) Puss caterpillars can be found in the southern United States.
- 61) Never touch a puss caterpillar.
- 62) How amazing, the puss caterpillar transforms into a beautiful flannel moth!
- 63) Keep an eye out for different colored puss caterpillars.



Puss Caterpillar

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. _____

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24. _____ 49. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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1.	B	26.	Would	51.	C
2.	C	27.	fact	52.	exclamatory
3.	D	28.	opinion	53.	imperative
4.	C	29.	fact	54.	interrogative
5.	C	30.	opinion	55.	exclamatory
6.	B	31.	fact	56.	declarative
7.	A	32.	opinion	57.	interrogative
8.	B	33.	fact	58.	declarative
9.	C	34.	fact	59.	interrogative
10.	D	35.	opinion	60.	declarative
11.	Would	36.	opinion	61.	imperative
12.	Would	37.	true	62.	exclamatory
13.	Not	38.	false	63.	imperative
14.	Would	39.	true		
15.	Would	40.	false		
16.	Would	41.	true		
17.	Not	42.	false		
18.	Would	43.	false		
19.	Would	44.	false		
20.	Not	45.	true		
21.	Not	46.	true		
22.	Would	47.	B		
23.	Would	48.	A		
24.	Not	49.	D		
25.	Not	50.	A		

