



Imagine a creature, sleek and slender, with shiny fur like polished ebony, that's our friend the American mink! About as long two rulers, the American mink sports a long body and a tail that can be almost half its length. Its fur is soft and dense, perfect for a chilly day, and did you know its color can vary from a deep rich brown to a glossy black? Its small ears and sharp teeth give it a cute yet dangerous look.



Speaking of the wild, let's explore where our little detective loves to live. American minks make their homes near water bodies like rivers, lakes, and marshes across North America. They love to swim and hunt in the water, and they're good at it too! They make their dens in the banks of rivers or in hollow logs, where they can stay cozy and warm.

From their cozy dens, American minks embark on fascinating food adventures. They're carnivores, which means they mainly eat meat; their menu usually includes fish, frogs, ducks, and even small mammals like rabbits. They're pretty feisty, with a hunting style that's all about surprise attacks, and they can even take on prey larger than themselves! But don't worry, they won't bite you, unless they feel threatened, as their sharp teeth are mostly for their meals.



American minks may be small, but they play a big part in our world. Some people value them for their fur, but that's not very kind to our furry friends, is it? They also help control the population of other animals, like rats and rabbits, by keeping their numbers in check. So, the next time you see an American mink, remember, they're not just cute, they're also important members of our ecosystem.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) How does an American mink hunt?
  - A. By digging holes to catch its prey
  - B. By chasing its prey
  - C. By using camouflage
  - D. With surprise attacks
- 2) How does the American mink help our ecosystem?
  - A. They pollinate flowers
  - B. They build homes for other animals
  - C. They control the population of other animals like rats and rabbits
  - D. They scare away dangerous predators
- 3) Why do some people value the American mink?
  - A. For their fur
  - B. For their chirping noise
  - C. For their hunting abilities
  - D. For their venom which has medicinal properties
- 4) What type of food diet does the American mink follow?
  - A. Omnivorous, which means they eat both meat and plants
  - B. Carnivorous, which means they eat meat
  - C. Herbivorous, which means they eat plants
  - D. Insectivorous, which means they eat insects
- 5) In what kind of places do American minks make their dens?
  - A. Inside large rocks
  - B. Underneath the ground
  - C. On top of tall trees
  - D. Inside the banks of rivers or in hollow logs
- 6) What color can the American mink's fur be?
  - A. Snowy white to cloudy grey
  - B. Moss green to ocean blue
  - C. Bright red to dark orange
  - D. Deep rich brown to glossy black
- 7) Where do American Minks usually make their homes?
  - A. Underground in burrow holes
  - B. In hot sandy deserts
  - C. Near bodies of water
  - D. At the top of tall trees
- 8) What size is an American mink?
  - A. About as big as your school ruler
  - B. Half the size of a dog
  - C. As small as a mouse
  - D. As big as a lion

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

- 9) "I'm a good hunter and eat fish, frogs, and even small mammals."
- 10) "I love the water so much that I live near rivers, lakes, and marshes."
- 11) "Did you know we have sharp teeth? They help us protect ourselves and catch our food."
- 12) "I make my home high up in the trees."
- 13) "Did you know I can eat prey that is even bigger than me?"



- 14) "I feel at home in the desert."
- 15) "We help control the population of other animals, like rats and rabbits."
- 16) "I can't swim, so I avoid water bodies."
- 17) "Hunting is not my strength, I rely on leftovers from other animals."
- 18) "I'm a vegetarian; I love eating fruits and vegetables."

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

- 19) The American mink is well known for its soft and dense fur which can vary in color from deep brown to glossy black.
- 20) American minks are the most adorable animals on Earth.
- 21) American minks, despite their relatively small size, can hunt and tackle animals larger than themselves.
- 22) Minks' ability to hunt bigger prey than themselves is the most amazing thing about them.
- 23) American minks usually live near water bodies like rivers, lakes, and marshes located in North America.
- 24) It is sad that some people value minks only for their fur.
- 25) The American minks create their homes in the banks of rivers or in hollow logs.
- 26) The diet of American minks mainly consists of meat.
- 27) American minks have a better fur color than any other animal.
- 28) It's amazing how American minks can swim and hunt underwater.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 29) One of the homes of the American mink is in hollow logs.
- 30) American minks eat mainly plants and berries.
- 31) American minks are carnivores, so they eat meat.
- 32) American minks chase their prey for miles before catching it.
- 33) The American mink has sharp teeth.
- 34) American minks can only catch prey that is smaller than they are.
- 35) American minks are a rare species that exist only in Australia.
- 36) American minks are primarily herbivores.
- 37) American minks live near water bodies like rivers, lakes, and marshes.
- 38) The American mink prefers to surprise its prey.

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

- 39) American minks can climb trees but are more comfortable on the ground.
- 40) What color is the American mink's fur?
- 41) American minks are solitary animals and prefer to live alone.
- 42) American minks are carnivorous and mostly eat small mammals, birds, and amphibians.
- 43) How fast can American minks swim?



44) What do American minks eat?



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|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ |
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- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u>        | 26. <u>fact</u>          |
| 2. <u>C</u>        | 27. <u>opinion</u>       |
| 3. <u>A</u>        | 28. <u>opinion</u>       |
| 4. <u>B</u>        | 29. <u>true</u>          |
| 5. <u>D</u>        | 30. <u>false</u>         |
| 6. <u>D</u>        | 31. <u>true</u>          |
| 7. <u>C</u>        | 32. <u>false</u>         |
| 8. <u>A</u>        | 33. <u>true</u>          |
| 9. <u>true</u>     | 34. <u>false</u>         |
| 10. <u>true</u>    | 35. <u>false</u>         |
| 11. <u>true</u>    | 36. <u>false</u>         |
| 12. <u>false</u>   | 37. <u>true</u>          |
| 13. <u>true</u>    | 38. <u>true</u>          |
| 14. <u>false</u>   | 39. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 15. <u>true</u>    | 40. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 16. <u>false</u>   | 41. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 17. <u>false</u>   | 42. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 18. <u>false</u>   | 43. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 19. <u>fact</u>    | 44. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 20. <u>opinion</u> |                          |
| 21. <u>fact</u>    |                          |
| 22. <u>opinion</u> |                          |
| 23. <u>fact</u>    |                          |
| 24. <u>opinion</u> |                          |
| 25. <u>fact</u>    |                          |



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- 1) How does an American mink hunt? (paragraph 3)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. By chasing its prey  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. With surprise attacks
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A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. They build homes for other animals  
C. They control the population of other animals like rats and rabbits D. \_\_\_\_\_
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