



Imagine a beetle, not just any beetle, but one of the largest, most impressive beetles in the world - the Hercules beetle! These incredible insects are famous for their size, which can reach up to 6.7 inches long, and their spectacular horn-like structures, which males use to battle each other. The Hercules beetle is shiny and can be green, gray, or brown, and it's known to change its color, almost like magic, depending on the light and the humidity. With their strong bodies, they can carry up to 850 times their own weight, making them one of the strongest creatures on earth.

Speaking of their strength, ever wondered what kind of meals fuel these mighty creatures? Hercules beetles are natural recyclers as they love munching on rotting wood and fruits for dinner. They play a very important role in the ecosystem by helping to break down and recycle dead plants. But remember, just like us, they need water to live, so they often live near streams or places where they can easily access water.

Now that we know what they eat and where they live, let's dive into their fascinating life cycle. Hercules beetles start their life as tiny eggs, which then hatch into larvae, the stage at which they do most of their growing. They then change into pupae, sort of like beetle teenagers, before finally becoming adult Hercules beetles. This entire process can take up to two years, which is quite long for an insect.



We've learned so much about these amazing beetles, but how do they interact with humans and other animals? In general, they are harmless to humans and prefer to avoid confrontation, using their impressive horns to defend themselves if necessary. They are often kept as pets due to their unique appearance and low maintenance, and have a peaceful relationship with other animals. So, next time you think of Hercules, don't just think of the strong hero from Greek mythology, but also remember the mighty Hercules beetle, one of the largest and strongest beetles in the world.



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) How do Hercules beetles use their horns?
  - A. to dig burrows
  - B. to swim in water
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- 2) Why are Hercules beetles called recyclers?
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  - A. because they are friendly and playful
  - B. because they can perform tricks
  - C. due to their unique appearance and low maintenance
  - D. because they are rare and valuable
  
- 5) Are Hercules beetles harmful to humans?
  - A. Only female beetles
  - B. Yes
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- 6) What is the Hercules beetle famous for?
  - A. their ability to change color
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- 7) How do Hercules beetles help the ecosystem?
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- 8) Where would you most likely find a Hercules beetles living?
  - A. At the top of a mountain
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- 9) Do Hercules beetles have a long or short life cycle compared to other insects?
  - A. Depends on the specific beetle
  - B. Short
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- 10) How long does it take for a Hercules beetle to complete its life cycle?
  - A. up to one year
  - B. up to two years
  - C. up to five years
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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).**

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- 23) "I need water to live, so I like to be near streams or places where it's easy for me to find water."
- 24) "I'm usually peaceful and try and avoid conflicts. But if necessary, I will use my horns to defend myself."
- 25) "I'm always aggressive and ready to fight."
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- 27) "From being an egg to growing into an adult, it takes me around two years!"
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**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 30) Hercules beetles can live up to two years.
- 31) Hercules beetles are not at all scary, they are just unique-looking.
- 32) Hercules beetles are often found eating decaying wood and fruits.
- 33) I think it's amazing how Hercules beetles can change their color, almost like magic.
- 34) Hercules beetles can be among the largest beetles in the world, reaching lengths of over 6 inches.
- 35) The life cycle of Hercules beetles is fascinating, from eggs to larvae, to pupae, and finally into adult beetles.
- 36) Hercules beetles can usually be found near sources of water.
- 37) Hercules beetles can lift something that is 850 times heavier than themselves.
- 38) Having a Hercules beetle as a pet can be very interesting due to their unique appearance.
- 39) It's cool how Hercules beetles eat decaying plant matter and fruit.

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

- 40) The life cycle of the Hercules beetle can take up to two years.



- 41) Hercules beetle larvae only eat rotting wood.
- 42) Adult Hercules beetles can carry up to 850 times their own weight.
- 43) The Hercules beetle is one of the smallest beetles in the world.
- 44) Hercules beetles may eat rotting wood.
- 45) Hercules beetles can carry up to 10,000 times their own weight.
- 46) Hercules beetles will attack humans if they come near.
- 47) Hercules beetles do not need water to live.
- 48) Hercules beetles are often kept as pets.
- 49) The Hercules beetle can change its color depending on the light and humidity.

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

- 50) They don't bite or sting humans.  
A. does not                                      B. do not  
C. did not                                         D. will not
- 51) You won't believe how big they can grow.  
A. will not                                        B. cannot  
C. would not                                     D. do not
- 52) Hercules beetles can't fly very far.  
A. can    B. are not able  
C. will not                                         D. cannot
- 53) It's amazing how strong they are for their size.  
A. it is    B. it was  
C. it will    D. it has
- 54) They're known for their large horns.  
A. they will                                        B. they were  
C. they are                                         D. they do

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

- 55) Amazing isn't it, that the lifecycle of a Hercules beetle can last up to three years!
- 56) Be careful not to touch the hercules beetle's horns.
- 57) Are Hercules beetles dangerous to humans?
- 58) Can you believe Hercules beetles can lift up to 850 times their own body weight? That's like a human lifting an elephant!
- 59) Hercules beetle larvae mostly eat rotten wood and leaf litter.
- 60) What is the purpose of the large horn on a male Hercules beetle?
- 61) Hercules beetles are harmless to humans and do not bite or sting.
- 62) What do Hercules beetle larvae eat?
- 63) Male Hercules beetles use their large horns to fight other beetles.



- 64) Observe the unique patterns on the exoskeleton of Hercules beetles.
- 65) Hercules beetles are one of the largest insects in the world!
- 66) Handle Hercules beetles with care.



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- |                                     |                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 2. <u>      <b>C</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>A</b>      </u>             |
| 4. <u>      <b>C</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>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 6. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 56. <u>      <b>imperative</b>      </u>    |
| 7. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 57. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
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