



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. a pouch on their belly
B. in their mouth
C. on their back
D. in their legs
- 2) Which best describes roly-polies?
A. Arachnids
B. Armadillos
C. Crustaceans
D. Insects
- 3) What do pillbugs use to explore?
A. antennae
B. eyes
C. wings
D. legs
- 4) What are some predators of pillbugs?
A. birds, frogs, and spiders
B. lizards, mice, and snakes
C. ants, bees, and wasps
D. rabbits, dogs, and cats
- 5) What is the process called when pillbugs shed their exoskeleton?
A. shedding
B. skinning
C. metamorphosis
D. molting
- 6) What do pillbugs breathe through?
A. stoma
B. nostrils
C. gills
D. lungs
- 7) What do pillbugs eat?
A. small insects
B. fruits and seeds
C. decayed plants
D. yellow flowers
- 8) How many pairs of legs do pillbugs have?
A. ten
B. seven
C. four
D. two
- 9) Why do pillbugs need to stay in moist environments?
A. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to stay clean.
B. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to sleep.
C. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to breathe properly.
D. Pillbugs need to stay in moist environments to find food.
- 10) Which place would you likely NOT find a pillbug living?
A. Under rocks
B. In a tree
C. In the soil
D. Under logs
- 11) What are pillbugs also known as?
A. millipedes
B. spiders
C. roly-polies
D. beetles

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."
- 13) "I love being out under the bright sun all day!"



Pillbugs

Name: _____

- 14) "My protective shell is divided into segments. When I curl up, I look like a tiny armadillo!"
- 15) "My body is soft and squishy."
- 16) "I carry my babies like humans do."
- 17) "I live my life out in the open, not in the soil."
- 18) "You'll often find me under rocks and in the moist parts of gardens."
- 19) "I help gardeners by breaking down old plants and animals into nutrients for the soil. I'm like a tiny recycling machine!"
- 20) "Many think I'm a bug, but... surprise! I'm actually a relative of crabs and lobsters. You won't find me in the sea though!"
- 21) "We pillbugs have six legs."
- 22) "I love dry environments."
- 23) "We are harmful to gardens."
- 24) "With my seven pairs of legs and two pairs of antennae, I explore the complex world around me."
- 25) "I like to eat fresh, green plants."
- 26) "Moms of my kind carry eggs and even babies in a pouch on our bellies, much like kangaroos do. That's how we protect our young ones!"
- 27) "I essentially eat trash! I munch on decayed plants and animals, turning waste into treasure for the plants."
- 28) "I don't breathe like you do, I use gills! Just like fishes, I need a moist environment to breathe."
- 29) "I breathe through lungs like humans."
- 30) "When I get scared, I roll up into a tight ball. It's my way of hiding!"
- 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.
- 34) Because pillbugs breathe through gills, they require damp environments to live.
- 35) Roly-polies aren't scary, they are cute.
- 36) Pillbugs can roll into a ball shape when they are afraid.
- 37) Pillbugs are disgusting the way they eat decaying material.
- 38) As pillbugs grow, they shed their old exoskeleton through a process called molting.
- 39) Pillbugs are actually a kind of crustacean, just like lobsters or crabs.
- 40) The name roly-polie is better than pillbug.
- 41) The way pillbugs roll up when they are scared is cool.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 42) Birds, frogs, and spiders eat pillbugs.
- 43) Pillbugs kept in captivity can grow up to a foot long.
- 44) Pillbugs break down decaying matter and enrich the soil.
- 45) Pillbugs are in the same insect family as crickets.
- 46) When pillbugs feel frightened, they roll into a ball.
- 47) Pillbugs stay in dry environments.
- 48) Female pillbugs lay eggs in fast moving streams so their babies are born somewhere with lots of water.
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Pillbugs

Name: _____

50) Pillbugs breathe through gills like fish.

51) Pillbugs prefer damp and dark places.

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
- C. They have
- D. They do

53) It's cool how they can roll up into a ball when they feel threatened.

- A. It is
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54) Pillbugs don't have wings and cannot fly.

- A. does not
- B. cannot
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55) Pillbugs can't sting or bite people.

- A. cannot
- B. can
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56) They've got a special pouch to carry their eggs.

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

57) It's amazing how pillbugs roll into a tight ball when they feel threatened!

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Pillbugs

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. _____ 67. _____

18. _____ 43. _____ 68. _____

19. _____ 44. _____

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25. _____ 50. _____



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1.	A	26.	Would	51.	true
2.	C	27.	Would	52.	B
3.	A	28.	Would	53.	A
4.	A	29.	Not	54.	D
5.	D	30.	Would	55.	A
6.	C	31.	Would	56.	C
7.	C	32.	fact	57.	exclamatory
8.	B	33.	opinion	58.	imperative
9.	C	34.	fact	59.	interrogative
10.	B	35.	opinion	60.	exclamatory
11.	C	36.	fact	61.	declarative
12.	Not	37.	opinion	62.	interrogative
13.	Not	38.	fact	63.	declarative
14.	Would	39.	fact	64.	interrogative
15.	Not	40.	opinion	65.	declarative
16.	Not	41.	opinion	66.	imperative
17.	Not	42.	true	67.	exclamatory
18.	Would	43.	false	68.	imperative
19.	Would	44.	true		
20.	Would	45.	false		
21.	Not	46.	true		
22.	Not	47.	false		
23.	Not	48.	false		
24.	Would	49.	false		
25.	Not	50.	true		



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Where do female pillbugs carry their eggs and babies? (paragraph 4)
A. a pouch on their belly B. in their mouth
C. D.
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A. B. Armadillos
C. Crustaceans D.
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A. antennae B. eyes
C. D.
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C. D.
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Pillbugs

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12) "I have one pair of antennae." (paragraph 1)