



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. a pouch on their belly
 - C. in their mouth
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- 2) Which best describes roly-polies?
 - A. Crustaceans
 - B. Insects
 - C. Armadillos
 - D. Arachnids

- 3) What do pillbugs use to explore?
 - A. antennae
 - B. eyes
 - C. wings
 - D. legs

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 - A. birds, frogs, and spiders
 - B. lizards, mice, and snakes
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 - D. ants, bees, and wasps

- 5) What is the process called when pillbugs shed their exoskeleton?
 - A. skinning
 - B. shedding
 - C. metamorphosis
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- 6) What do pillbugs breathe through?
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- 7) What do pillbugs eat?
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- 8) How many pairs of legs do pillbugs have?
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- 9) Why do pillbugs need to stay in moist environments?
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 - A. In the soil
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- 11) What are pillbugs also known as?
 - A. roly-polies
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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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- 13) "I love being out under the bright sun all day!"
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- 15) "My body is soft and squishy."
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- 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."
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- 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."
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- 27) "I essentially eat trash! I munch on decayed plants and animals, turning waste into treasure for the plants."
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- 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.
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- 62) What are pillbugs also known as?
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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
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- 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.
49) Pillbugs have six legs and two pairs of antennae.
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
B. It was
C. It has
D. It does
- 54) Pillbugs don't have wings and cannot fly.
A. does not
B. cannot
C. did not
D. do not
- 55) Pillbugs can't sting or bite people.
A. cannot
B. can
C. do not
D. will not
- 56) They've got a special pouch to carry their eggs.
A. They do
B. They had
C. They have
D. They were

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!
58) Watch out for the pillbugs crawling on the sidewalk!
59) How many stages are there in a pillbug's life cycle?
60) It's disgusting how pillbugs eat their own poop!
61) Pillbugs are also known as roly-polies or doodlebugs.



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| 3. <u> A </u> | 28. <u> true </u> | 53. <u> A </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> false </u> | 54. <u> D </u> |
| 5. <u> D </u> | 30. <u> true </u> | 55. <u> A </u> |
| 6. <u> D </u> | 31. <u> true </u> | 56. <u> C </u> |
| 7. <u> C </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 8. <u> A </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | 58. <u> imperative </u> |
| 9. <u> C </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | 59. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 10. <u> B </u> | 35. <u> opinion </u> | 60. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 11. <u> A </u> | 36. <u> fact </u> | 61. <u> declarative </u> |
| 12. <u> false </u> | 37. <u> opinion </u> | 62. <u> interrogative </u> |
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