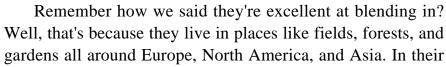


Just like magic, the pygmy shrew zips through the underbrush, barely visible to the naked eye. These tiny creatures are the smallest mammals known to us, weighing less than a dime and being only about the size of your thumb. Their fur is a soft, velvety brown color, which helps them blend in with their surroundings. They have a pointy snout, tiny eyes, and ears that are almost hidden by their fur.





little homes, they feast on a buffet of insects, spiders, and other small invertebrates. In fact, they eat so much that they need to consume 2 to 3 times their body weight in food each day!

Now, imagine eating that much, you'd probably be very sleepy, right? Well, pygmy shrews don't have much time for sleep, they're too busy living their life cycle. They're born in the spring, grow quickly, and by summer, they're ready to have little shrews of their own. Despite their small size, they're fearless, using their sharp teeth to defend themselves from threats.



Speaking of threats, did you know that pygmy shrews have a special trick? Their saliva is venomous, which helps them to paralyze their prey and defend against predators. This makes them different from other shrew species, which can't do this. So, next time you're exploring the great outdoors, remember to respect these small but mighty creatures.

Name:

Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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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).

11) "My fur changes color based on the seasons, just like a chameleon."



- 12) "I survive on an all-insect diet, including spiders and other tiny creepy crawlies."
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- **16)** "We love long sleeps, especially after a big meal."
- 17) "I don't really like to eat much, just a little bite now and then."
- 18) "We barely eat, don't need much food to survive."
- **19**) "We're born in winter and enjoy the cold."
- 20) "I live in places like fields, forests, and even gardens in Europe, North America, and Asia."
- 21) "I'm pretty big for a mammal, almost the size of a cat."
- 22) "Guess what? I'm one of the smallest animals on the planet, tinier than a dime!"

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

- 23) Pygmy shrews eat about 2 to 3 times their own body weight in food every day.
- 24) Pygmy shrews are more interesting than other shrew species because they have venomous saliva.
- **25**) Pygmy shrews eat insects, spiders, and small invertebrates.
- **26)** Pygmy shrews, with their pointy snout and tiny eyes, are the more adorable than any other mammals.
- **27**) Pygmy shrews are the smallest mammals known to humans.
- **28)** The sharp teeth of the pygmy shrew make it look a bit scary despite its tiny size.
- **29**) Pygmy shrews usually give birth during the spring season.
- **30)** Pygmy shrews can be found in places like fields, gardens, forests.
- 31) It's amazing that the pygmy shrew, being so tiny, is able to eat 2 to 3 times its body weight in food each day!
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Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 33) Pygmy shrews are usually born in the spring.
- **34)** Pygmy shrews only eat plants.
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C. They had

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

43) Pygmy shrews <u>can't</u> fly, but they can climb trees!

A. can able

B. cannot

C. will not D. are not

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A. They have

B. They areD. They were

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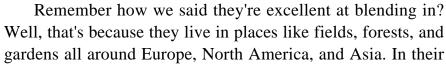
Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

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- **49**) Can pygmy shrews swim?
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	Pygmy Shrew	Name:
1.	26.	51.
2.	27.	52.
3.	28.	53.
4.	29.	
5.	30.	
6		
7.		
8.	33.	
9.	34.	
10.	35.	
11.	36.	
12.	37.	
13.	38.	
14.	39.	
15.	40.	
16.	41.	
17.	42.	
18.	43.	
19.	44.	
20.	45.	
21.	46.	
22.	47.	
23.	48.	
24.	49.	
25.	50.	
Reading www.	v.CommonCoreSheets.com	Page 5 of 5



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Pygmy Shrew

Answer Key

Name:

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Pygmy Shrew

Name:

Answer Key

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2.	<u> </u>	. 27.	fact	52.	interrogative
3.	В	28.	opinion	53.	interrogative
4.	<u>A</u>	29.	fact		
5.	D	30.	fact		
6.	D	31.	opinion		
7.	D	32.	opinion		
8.	В	33.	true		
9.	В	. 34.	false		
10.	D	35.	true		
11.	false	36.	false		
12.	true	. 37.	true		
13.	true	38.	false		
14.	true	39.	false		
15.	false	40.	false		
16.	false	. 41.	true		
17.	false	42.	true		
18.	false	43.	В		
19.	false	. 44.	A		
20.	true	45.	D		
21.	false	. 46.	A		
22.	true	. 47.	C		
23.	fact	48.	declarative		
24.	opinion	49.	interrogative		
25.	fact	50.	declarative		

A. Mountains and caves

Pygmy Shrew

Name:

Solve each problem.

Use the article	e to	answer	the	question.
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B.

C. D.

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Pygmy Shrew

Name:

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