



Guess who's tiny, brown, and has a violin-like marking on its back? That's right, it's the brown recluse spider! This little arachnid is about the size of a quarter, including its legs, and its color can vary from sandy beige to dark brown. The marking on its back, which kind of looks like a violin, is one of the things that sets the brown recluse apart from other spiders. Another unique feature is that it has only six eyes instead of the usual eight that most spiders have!



If you're wondering where this six-eyed creature calls home, you'll find them mostly in the central and southern parts of the United States. They prefer to live in dark, secluded places, like under rocks or in woodpiles, and they even sometimes sneak into people's houses! These spiders are not social, so they like to be alone most of the time. And when it comes to dinner time, they like to feast on little insects like cockroaches and crickets.

Now let's talk about the life cycle of our violin-backed friend. The female brown recluse lays eggs in a sticky, off-white silken sac, and after about a month, tiny spiderlings emerge. These little ones grow up to become adults in about a year, and can live for two to four years, which is quite long for a spider. Did you know that these spiders play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling the population of the insects they eat?



Now, you might be wondering, do these spiders get along with humans? Well, brown recluse spiders are actually quite shy and prefer to keep to themselves rather than interact with humans or other animals. They only bite when they feel threatened, and their venom can be harmful to humans, so it's best to leave them alone if you see one. And that's our little six-eyed, violin-backed friend, the brown recluse spider, a unique creature that prefers a quiet life, munching on insects and playing its part in the balance of nature.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color can the brown recluse spider be?
 - A. Green and blue
 - B. Red and yellow
 - C. Beige to brown
 - D. Black and white

- 2) What does the mark on the back of a brown recluse spider look like?
 - A. It looks like a star.
 - B. It looks like an arrow.
 - C. It looks like a circle.
 - D. It looks like a violin.

- 3) What is unique about the brown recluse spider's eyes?
 - A. It has two eyes
 - B. It has four eyes
 - C. It has eight eyes
 - D. It has six eyes

- 4) How do brown recluse spiders usually behave around humans?
 - A. They are curious and investigate
 - B. They are aggressive and attack
 - C. They are friendly and approachable
 - D. They are shy and prefer to keep to themselves

- 5) How long does it take for a brown recluse spider to grow from a spiderling to an adult?
 - A. A few days
 - B. Several years
 - C. About a year
 - D. A few weeks

- 6) What size is the brown recluse spider, including its legs?
 - A. About the size of a football
 - B. About the size of a quarter
 - C. About the size of a hand
 - D. About the size of a baseball

- 7) Where can you mostly find brown recluse spiders?
 - A. In the southern part of Mexico
 - B. In the central and southern parts of the United States
 - C. In the northern parts of the United States
 - D. In the western part of Canada

- 8) Where does the brown recluse spider prefer to live?
 - A. In wide open spaces
 - B. In bustling cities
 - C. In dark, secluded places
 - D. On tree tops

- 9) Are brown recluse spiders social or do they like to be alone?
 - A. They only live with their babies.
 - B. They like to be alone most of the time.
 - C. They always live with other types of spiders.
 - D. They are very social and live in large groups.

- 10) Which choice might the brown recluse spider prefer to eat?
 - A. Leaves
 - B. Seeds
 - C. Insects
 - D. Rodents



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

- 11) "My back has a marking which is shaped like a violin. It helps others identify me and my kind."
- 12) "If you see me, it's best to leave me alone unless you want to get bitten. My venom is dangerous for humans."
- 13) "Not only am I smaller than other spiders, but I also have just six eyes, unlike the usual eight."
- 14) "My eight eyes help me see in the dark."
- 15) "It takes me about a year to mature into an adult and I can live for two to four years."
- 16) "Flowers and fruits make up my favorite meal."
- 17) "I can't live longer than a year. It's too much."
- 18) "I'm a simple spider. Give me a few small insects like crickets or cockroaches and I'm happy."
- 19) "After my mom lays eggs, we hatch from those eggs after around a month."
- 20) "I'm actually pretty tiny, just about the size of a bottle cap."
- 21) "I am an extremely social creature who loves being in groups."
- 22) "Like an introvert, I prefer to live a solitary life, enjoying my peace."
- 23) "Oh, I love to eat plants and leaves. They're delicious."
- 24) "I love to tuck myself into dark corners, under rocks or in the quiet corners of human houses. Anywhere I can be alone."
- 25) "I despise dark, secluded places."
- 26) "One can easily find me in the northern part of the United States."
- 27) "I make my home mostly in the central and southern parts of the United States."

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

- 28) Brown recluse spiders prefer to stay in dark, hidden places.
- 29) Brown recluse spiders have the most interesting design out of all the spiders.
- 30) You can often find brown recluse spiders in the central and southern United States.
- 31) The fact that the brown recluse live for four years is interesting.
- 32) This spider is identifiable by a unique mark on its back, similar to a violin.
- 33) It's quite scary to know that a brown recluse spider can live in people's houses.
- 34) Their diet mainly consists of small insects such as crickets and cockroaches.
- 35) Unlike most spiders that have eight eyes, brown recluses only have six.
- 36) Brown recluse spiders are way cooler than other spiders because they only have six eyes instead of eight.
- 37) Brown recluse spiders, with their dangerous bite, are the worst spiders in the world.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Brown recluse spiders lay eggs.



61) Their venom is strong enough to cause serious skin reactions, it's scary but true!



Brown Recluse Spider

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| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> D </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> C </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> declarative </u> |
| 4. <u> D </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> | 54. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> declarative </u> |
| 6. <u> B </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 7. <u> B </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | 58. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> true </u> | |
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| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> true </u> | |
| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> true </u> | |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> B </u> | |
| 24. <u> true </u> | 49. <u> A </u> | |
| 25. <u> false </u> | 50. <u> D </u> | |



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Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color can the brown recluse spider be? (paragraph 1)
 - A. B. Red and yellow
 - C. Beige to brown D.
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 - A. It looks like a star. B.
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 - A. A few days B.
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 - A. B. About the size of a quarter
 - C. D.
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 - C. D.
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- 9) Are brown recluse spiders social or do they like to be alone? (paragraph 2)
 - A. B. They like to be alone most of the time.
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