



Guess what, there's a creature named after two animals – the ant and the lion, but it's not related to either! The ant lion, as it's called, is actually a tiny insect that looks a bit like a dragonfly when it's fully grown. In their younger stage, they're called 'ant lion larvae' and look like little bugs with big jaws. These guys are unique with their flat bodies, six tiny legs and a pair of fearsome jaws.

Speaking of their looks, did you know these creatures are also famous for their homes? Ant lions usually live in sandy or dusty areas where they dig small, funnel-shaped pits. These pits are not just any home, they are clever traps for unsuspecting prey, mainly ants. When an ant stumbles into the pit, the ant lion waits at the bottom to catch it with its large jaws.

Now that we've seen their homes, let's dive into their life cycle and diet. Ant lions start their life as an egg, then they hatch into larvae (the stage where they dig pits and catch ants), and finally transform into adults. The adult stage is the only time they can fly and they mostly eat pollen and nectar. Interestingly, adult ant lions don't have any jaws to eat solid food, so they only have a short time to find a mate and lay eggs before they starve.



Even though they might seem a little scary, ant lions are harmless to humans and are even beneficial. Their pits help aerate the soil and their hunting reduces the number of ants, which can be pests. They also serve as food for other creatures like birds and spiders. So, next time you see a tiny pit in a sandy area, remember it could be the home of an ant lion, an insect that's not an ant or a lion but an amazing creature in its own right.



**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What does the ant lion look like when it's fully grown?
 - A. It looks like a dragonfly.
 - B. It looks like a sparrow.
 - C. It looks like an ant.
 - D. It looks like a lion.

- 2) Do ant lions help in reducing the number of ants?
 - A. No, they actually increase the number of ants.
 - B. Yes, their hunting reduces the number of ants.
 - C. No, they do not affect the number of ants.
 - D. No, they have no interactions with ants.

- 3) Where do ant lions usually live?
 - A. They live in grasslands.
 - B. They live in the forest.
 - C. They live in sandy areas.
 - D. They live in water bodies.

- 4) Do ant lions lay eggs?
 - A. No, they give birth to live young ones.
 - B. No, they don't lay eggs.
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- 5) What do adult ant lions usually eat?
 - A. They mostly eat small insects.
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 - C. They mostly eat plant leaves.
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- 6) What do ant lion larvae look like?
 - A. They look like tiny ants.
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- 7) What is the shape of the pits ant lions dig?
 - A. They dig funnel-shaped pits.
 - B. They dig square pits.
 - C. They dig circular pits.
 - D. They dig rectangular pits.

- 8) What is the purpose of the pits dug by the ant lions?
 - A. They use the pits to hide from predators.
 - B. They use the pits to trap ants.
 - C. They use the pits to lay eggs.
 - D. They use the pits to store food.

- 9) Do other creatures eat ant lions?
 - A. Yes, other creatures like birds and spiders eat them.
 - B. No, no other creatures eat them.
 - C. No, they are not edible to any creature.
 - D. No, they are too dangerous to be eaten.

- 10) In which stage do ant lions fly?
 - A. They fly in their adult stage.
 - B. They fly when they are eggs.
 - C. They don't fly at all.
 - D. They fly in their larvae stage.



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

- 11) "My diet is completely different from my larvae stage to when I grow my wings. From ants to pollen."
- 12) "Though some may find me intimidating, remember I am harmless to humans."
- 13) "While my name suggests I'm part ant, part lion, I'm actually a tiny insect."
- 14) "I don't change a lot from when I'm young to when I'm grown."
- 15) "I am known for my homes, which are little pits that I did in sandy areas."
- 16) "I can fly as soon as I am born."
- 17) "I love making my home in the forest."
- 18) "As an adult, I feed mainly on pollen and nectar as I cannot eat solid food."
- 19) "After transforming into an adult, my life turns into a race against time, as I need to find a mate and lay eggs before I starve."
- 20) "My life begins as an egg, then I become a larva, and finally, I change into an adult."
- 21) "I dig large, cavernous pits."
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- 26) "I only eat ants my entire life."
- 27) "I may look like a dragonfly when I'm grown, but when I'm young, I'm more like a little bug with big jaws."

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

- 28) During their adult period, ant lions feed mostly on nectar and pollen.
- 29) Having big jaws when no other part of your body is big is a little bit scary.
- 30) Ant lions go through three stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, and adult.
- 31) It is amazing how ant lions create such tiny homes without any tools.
- 32) The ant lion is an insect and not a type of ant or lion.
- 33) Ant lions are the most interesting when they are in the stage of larva and hunting for food.
- 34) Ant lions are harmless to humans.
- 35) Ant lions dig funnel-shaped pits that serve as their homes and also as traps for their prey.
- 36) The way ant lions trap their prey is very impressive!
- 37) It's amazing how fast an antlion can catch an ant in its pit.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Birds and spiders eat ant lions.
- 39) Ant lions bites contain a toxin that is deadly to humans.
- 40) Ant lion pits can help aerate the soil.



- 41) Adult ant lions may eat up to 200 ants a day!
- 42) Adult ant lions do not eat solid food.
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- 44) Ant lions are ants that have a fur mane.
- 45) Ant lions eat birds and spiders in addition to ants.
- 46) Adult ant lions are harmless to humans.
- 47) Ant lions dig small, funnel-shaped pits to live in.

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

- 48) Ant lions are also known as doodlebugs because of the squiggly trails they leave behind as they move through the sand.
- 49) It's intriguing how an ant lion's pit can be almost perfect in its symmetry!
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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> A </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> interrogative </u> |
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| 3. <u> C </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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| 7. <u> A </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | |
| 8. <u> B </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 9. <u> A </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | |
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| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> true </u> | |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> declarative </u> | |
| 24. <u> true </u> | 49. <u> exclamatory </u> | |
| 25. <u> false </u> | 50. <u> declarative </u> | |



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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A. It looks like a dragonfly. B. It looks like a sparrow.
C. D.
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A. No, they actually increase the number of ants. B. Yes, their hunting reduces the number of ants.
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