



Who's small, cute, and super fluffy? Yes, you've guessed it right! It's the adorable cotton mouse! These cuddly little creatures are named for their soft, cotton-like fur which is a beautiful mix of brown and gray. They have big, dark eyes that sparkle with curiosity and long tails that help them balance while climbing trees or running around. Their small, rounded ears and pointed snout give them a unique look that's simply irresistible!



From their adorable looks, let's hop to where these fascinating creatures live! Cotton mice are most commonly found in the southeastern regions of the United States, making cozy homes in forests, fields, and sometimes even in barns! They are pretty good climbers and often nest in tree holes or under logs, safe from predators. During the day, they're mostly asleep but when it's night, they're all set for their adventure time!

After a good night's rest, it's time for the cotton mouse to fill its tiny tummy! These little munchers love to eat! Their diet mainly consists of seeds, fruits, nuts, and insects. Sometimes, they also munch on bird eggs if they can find any. Their sharp teeth help them to crack open seeds and nuts easily, while their keen sense of smell guides them to their next meal!



We've learned so much about these cute critters, but do you know how they interact with us humans and other animals? Cotton mice are quite shy and prefer to avoid humans, but they don't usually cause any harm to us. They play a crucial role in the ecosystem by helping in seed dispersion and controlling insect populations. So, the next time you see a cotton mouse, remember how special and important they are in our world!

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

- 1) What color is the fur of a cotton mouse?
  - A. Orange
  - B. Pure white
  - C. Brown and gray
  - D. Black and white
- 2) Where would you most likely find a cotton mice?
  - A. In forests
  - B. In the ocean
  - C. On mountains
  - D. In the desert
- 3) In which country can we mostly find cotton mice?
  - A. United Kingdom
  - B. United States
  - C. Australia
  - D. India
- 4) What do cotton mice sometimes munch on, besides their usual diet?
  - A. Bird eggs
  - B. Honeycombs
  - C. Frog eggs
  - D. Grass
- 5) What kind of animals does the cotton mouse eat?
  - A. Birds
  - B. Insects
  - C. Reptiles
  - D. Fish
- 6) What part of a cotton mouse body helps them balance?
  - A. Short ears
  - B. Pointed snout
  - C. Large front legs
  - D. Long tails
- 7) What time of day are cotton mice most active?
  - A. Evening
  - B. Afternoon
  - C. Night
  - D. Morning
- 8) What diet do cotton mice primarily follow?
  - A. Soil, rocks and berries
  - B. Grass, leaves and tree bark
  - C. Seeds, fruits, nuts, and insects
  - D. Small mammals, fish and birds
- 9) Where would you find a cotton mouse making its home?
  - A. In bird nests
  - B. In houses
  - C. In caves
  - D. In tree holes
- 10) How do cotton mice break open their food?
  - A. Smashing with their tail
  - B. With their claws
  - C. Using sharp teeth
  - D. By stomping on it

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

- 11) "I actually make my home in the snowy regions of Alaska, not in forests or fields."
- 12) "When it's night time, I come out to explore."
- 13) "Our sharp teeth help us crack open seeds and nuts easily."



- 14) "We prefer to avoid humans."
- 15) "We hate climbing, we prefer staying grounded."
- 16) "We're actually very sociable creatures and love to interact with humans!"
- 17) "I only eat fresh leaves and flowers. I don't like fruits, nuts, or insects."
- 18) "We're extremely picky eaters: we only eat rare black nuts from the Himalayas."
- 19) "I am a day-time adventurer, night time is for my beauty sleep."
- 20) "We are found in the southeastern regions of the United States."
- 21) "I can't climb trees at all, my favourite spot is always on the ground."
- 22) "With my long tail, I can balance while climbing trees or running around."

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

- 23) Cotton mice spend most of the day asleep.
- 24) When cotton mice are nibbling on seeds and nuts, they look absolutely adorable!
- 25) Cotton mice commonly make homes in tree holes or under logs.
- 26) Cotton mice, with their small size and big eyes, are one of the cutest animals in the forest.
- 27) Cotton mice have a blend of brown and gray fur.
- 28) Cotton mice's sharp teeth are scary, even though you know they don't harm humans.
- 29) Cotton mice diet is mainly made up of seeds, fruits, nuts, and insects.
- 30) Cotton mice are mostly found in the southeastern regions of the United States.
- 31) Having a cotton mouse in your backyard is better than having a squirrel!
- 32) It's fun to watch cotton mice swiftly climbing trees using their long tails for balance.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 33) The diet of a cotton mouse mainly consists of seeds and nuts.
- 34) Cotton mice eat mainly cheese and bread.
- 35) Cotton mice are nocturnal and generally only come out at night.
- 36) Cotton mice enjoy playing with humans and being handled.
- 37) The cotton mouse is predominantly found in the southeastern regions of the United States.
- 38) Cotton mice are mostly found in the northwestern regions of the United States.
- 39) Cotton mice are aggressive and commonly bite humans when they see them.
- 40) Cotton mice sleep at night and are mostly active during the day.
- 41) Cotton mice are generally shy.
- 42) The cotton mice get their name from their fur, which is as soft as cotton.

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

- 43) Cotton mice are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night.
- 44) Can cotton mice climb trees?
- 45) Cotton mice come in different colors like white, grey, and brown.



- 46) Cotton mice have soft and fluffy fur.
- 47) How do cotton mice build their nests?
- 48) Where do cotton mice live?



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|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |
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|       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1-10  | 95 | 90 | 85 | 80 | 75 | 70 | 65 | 60 | 55 | 50 |
| 11-20 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5  | 0  |



- |     |                               |     |                                     |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1.  | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>       | 26. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |
| 2.  | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>       | 27. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          |
| 3.  | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>       | 28. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |
| 4.  | <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>       | 29. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          |
| 5.  | <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>       | 30. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          |
| 6.  | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>       | 31. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |
| 7.  | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>       | 32. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |
| 8.  | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>       | 33. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 9.  | <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>       | 34. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 10. | <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>       | 35. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 11. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 36. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 12. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 37. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 13. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 38. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 14. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 39. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 15. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 40. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 16. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 41. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 17. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 42. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 18. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 43. | <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 19. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 44. | <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 20. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 45. | <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 21. | <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 46. | <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 22. | <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 47. | <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 23. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 48. | <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 24. | <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> |     |                                     |
| 25. | <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    |     |                                     |



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- 11) "I actually make my home in the snowy regions of Alaska, not in forests or fields." (paragraph 2)



12) "When it's night time, I come out to explore." (paragraph 2)