



Say hello to our tiny, chirping friend, the house cricket! These little creatures are usually light brown in color and have six legs with two long antennae on their heads. They grow up to be about an inch long and have wings, although they prefer to hop rather than fly. If you look really closely, you might even see the lines on their body, which look like a pattern of tiny dots!



Remember those interesting patterns we talked about? Well, our house cricket pals use those patterns, along with their brown color, to hide from predators in their natural habitats. They can be found all around the world, but tend to make their homes in warm environments, often hiding in cracks, crevices, or under stones during the day. At night, when it's safer, they come out to look for food, munching on plants, fabric and even other insects!

Speaking of food, did you know that the cycle of life for these crickets starts from an egg? A female house cricket can lay hundreds of eggs that hatch into tiny baby crickets called nymphs, and these nymphs then grow into adults in just a few weeks. Despite their small size, house crickets have a big role in the ecosystem, serving as food for a variety of animals like birds, spiders, and even other insects. They also help break down plant material, returning important nutrients back to the soil.



You might have guessed from their name that house crickets can sometimes be found in our homes, too. They are not harmful to humans, and some people even keep them as pets or use them as food for their pet reptiles. While their constant chirping can be annoying for some, in many cultures around the world, the chirping of crickets is considered to be a sign of good luck. So next time you see a house cricket, remember, they're not just tiny creatures, they're an important part of our big, wide world!

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

- 1) What color are house crickets?
  - A. black
  - B. green
  - C. red
  - D. brown
- 2) How many legs do crickets have?
  - A. Ten
  - B. Four
  - C. Six
  - D. Eight
- 3) What do crickets have on their body that is hard to see?
  - A. A checkboard pattern
  - B. A pattern of stripes
  - C. Tiny dots
  - D. A single stripe
- 4) What is the first stage of the life cycle of a house cricket?
  - A. pupa
  - B. egg
  - C. adult
  - D. larva
- 5) What is the cultural significance of the chirping of crickets?
  - A. a warning of danger
  - B. a call for rain
  - C. a sign of good luck
  - D. a sign of bad luck
- 6) How long do house crickets grow to be?
  - A. three inches
  - B. two inches
  - C. about an inch
  - D. half an inch
- 7) Where do house crickets make their homes during the day?
  - A. cracks, crevices, or under stones
  - B. inside leaves
  - C. tree branches
  - D. burrows in the ground
- 8) How long does it take for house cricket nymphs to grow into adults?
  - A. a few weeks
  - B. a few months
  - C. a few years
  - D. a few days
- 9) How do crickets prefer to get around?
  - A. Hopping with their legs
  - B. Walking
  - C. Flying with their wings
  - D. Scooting on their belly
- 10) Are house crickets harmful to humans?
  - A. only the males
  - B. yes
  - C. only the females
  - D. no

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

- 11) "I love living in cold environments."
- 12) "My lifespan is very long, lasting for several years."



- 13) "Our life begins small, from an egg laid by our moms. In just few weeks we grow into adults."
- 14) "I don't have wings."
- 15) "My chirping is considered bad luck in many cultures."
- 16) "I do not eat plants."
- 17) "My chirping might be noise to you, but in many cultures, people think it's a sign of good luck."
- 18) "I'm always on the lookout for a nice, cozy stone to hide under during the day."
- 19) "I'm a creature of the night! When it's dark, I come out to hunt for food."
- 20) "I don't like warm environments."
- 21) "The number of eggs I lay is very low, usually only 10 or 20."
- 22) "I love to go out and find food during the day."
- 23) "When you see us in your homes, don't worry! We're harmless. In fact, some people keep us as their pets."
- 24) "I pose a serious threat to humans."
- 25) "You wouldn't believe the variety in our diet; from plants to fabric and even other insects."
- 26) "My color and patterns are not just for show, they help me stay hidden."
- 27) "Although I have wings, I prefer to hop around."
- 28) "I don't chirp at all."
- 29) "We are not just found in North America, we have made our way to almost all corners of the world."
- 30) "Believe it or not I have a ton of brothers and sisters. That's because my mom lays hundreds of eggs."

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

- 31) House crickets are not harmful to humans.
- 32) The sound of crickets chirping at night is relaxing.
- 33) A female house cricket can lay hundreds of these eggs.
- 34) House crickets are the cutest insects of all.
- 35) House crickets are usually light brown, have six legs and two long antennae on their heads.
- 36) Going out in the evening to see crickets is one of the best ways to end the day.
- 37) There are people who keep house crickets as pets or use them as food for their pet reptiles.
- 38) House crickets tend to live in warm environments and hide in cracks, crevices or under stones during the day.
- 39) House crickets are rather annoying because of their constant chirping.
- 40) The life cycle of house crickets, from egg to adult, is truly amazing.

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

- 41) House crickets prefer to hop rather than fly.
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- 67) What a loud chirping sound crickets make!
- 68) Where can you find house crickets?



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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>             |
| 2. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 52. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 3. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 53. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>             |
| 4. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 54. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>             |
| 5. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 55. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>             |
| 6. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 56. <u>      <b>imperative</b>      </u>    |
| 7. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 57. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 8. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 33. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 58. <u>      <b>imperative</b>      </u>    |
| 9. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 34. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 59. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 10. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>     | 35. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 60. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 11. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 36. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 61. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 12. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 37. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 62. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
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| 24. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 49. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    |   |
| 25. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>  | 50. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    |   |

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B. green  
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B. yes  
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- 11) "I love living in cold environments." (paragraph 2)



12) "My lifespan is very long, lasting for several years." (paragraph 3)