



Hey, have you ever seen a tiny dinosaur creeping around in your backyard? Well, it might just be a Texas horned lizard, a cool creature native to North America! Covered in sharp spines and adorned with two large horns on its head, this lizard looks like it jumped right out of a prehistoric picture book. Its flat body, often a mix of brown, gray, and red, is perfect for blending into its surroundings.

Speaking of surroundings, Texas horned lizards have a pretty specific habitat where they feel right at home. These small, spiky fellows love to live in semi-arid regions, which means they're often found in places like Texas, Arizona, and Mexico. They enjoy the warmth and spend their days basking in the sun or burrowing in the sand. But when they're not lounging, they're hunting for yummy ants, their favorite food.

Oh yes, these lizards are quite the ant eaters! In fact, they can eat a large number of ants in one day, sometimes up to 200! Harvester ants are their absolute favorite, but they'll also munch on beetles, spiders, and other small invertebrates if ants are in short supply. This specialized diet helps control ant populations, which is a neat way they interact with other animals.



Now, these little lizards aren't just fascinating to watch, they also have some amazing defense mechanisms against predators. When threatened, they can puff up their bodies to appear larger and more intimidating. Even more extraordinary, they can squirt a stream of blood from the corners of their eyes to scare off attackers! So, next time you see a Texas horned lizard, remember it's not just a mini dinosaur, but also a master of disguise and defense!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What are the Texas horned lizards covered with?
 - A. They are covered with furry hair.
 - B. They are covered with shiny scales.
 - C. They are covered with soft feathers.
 - D. They are covered with sharp spines.
- 2) What can a Texas horned lizard do to scare off attackers?
 - A. Make a loud screeching noise
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 - C. Play dead
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- 3) Where would you most likely NOT find a texas horned lizard?
 - A. Mexico
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 - A. In tropical rainforests
 - B. In cold, snowy areas
 - C. In semi-arid regions
 - D. In bodies of water like rivers and lakes
- 6) What color is the Texas horned lizard?
 - A. They are often a mix of purple, pink, and black.
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- 10) What do Texas horned lizards do when they feel threatened?
- A. They puff up their bodies to appear larger and more intimidating. B. They play dead.
- C. They change their color to match the surroundings. D. They spit venom.

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

- 11) "I can survive just fine in snow-filled mountains, they're quite cozy for me."
- 12) "I eat loads of ants. In one day, I can eat up to 200 of them. Yum!"
- 13) "I love to bask in the sun or dig in the sand when I'm not busy eating ants."
- 14) "When I feel scared, I can make myself look bigger. But if that doesn't work, I can squirt a stream of blood from the corners of my eyes! Good way to surprise predators!"
- 15) "Being green makes it easier for me to hide in the brown desert."
- 16) "When predators come close, the best thing for me to do is to play dead."
- 17) "I wouldn't be caught dead in the sand. It's just so uncomfortable and grainy."
- 18) "Insects are a no-no for me. I'm all about nuts and seeds."
- 19) "You won't believe this, but I can eat up to a thousand ants in a day!"
- 20) "I live in Texas. It's warm and a bit dry, just how I like it."
- 21) "We love to roam around in lush, wet rainforests."
- 22) "I may be small, but my sharp spines and big horns make me look like a dinosaur!"

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

- 23) Texas horned lizards have a body that is flat and has a mix of colors like brown, grey, and red to blend in with their surroundings.
- 24) Texas horned lizards can eat up to two hundred ants in a day.
- 25) The most interesting thing about Texas horned lizards is their ability to eat a large number of ants in a single day.
- 26) Being able to puff up their bodies to appear larger and more intimidating is the coolest thing that Texas horned lizards can do.
- 27) In case of danger, Texas horned lizards can squirt a stream of blood from the corners of their eyes.
- 28) Texas horned lizards are way cooler than other lizards because they have sharp spines.
- 29) Texas horned lizards inhabit semi-arid regions.
- 30) To protect itself, a Texas horned lizard can puff up its body to appear larger.
- 31) The diet of Texas horned lizards mainly consists of ants.
- 32) It is impressive how the Texas horned lizards can survive in deserts.
- 33) It's gross how Texas horned lizards will squirt blood from their eyes.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 34) Texas horned lizards have two large horns on their head.



- 35) Texas horned lizards are often found in the cold northern states like New York.
- 36) Texas horned lizards can eat up to 200 ants in a day.
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- 44) Texas horned lizards are often found in desert habitats.
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| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> opinion </u> |
| 2. <u> D </u> | 27. <u> fact </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> opinion </u> |
| 4. <u> D </u> | 29. <u> fact </u> |
| 5. <u> C </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> fact </u> |
| 7. <u> B </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> |
| 8. <u> A </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> |
| 9. <u> C </u> | 34. <u> true </u> |
| 10. <u> A </u> | 35. <u> false </u> |
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