



Say hello to the Gila monster, one of the coolest creatures you've probably never heard of! This isn't your average reptile. It's one of only two venomous lizards in the world and it's pretty easy to spot thanks to its chunky body and colourful, bumpy skin. Its skin is covered in bead-like scales that are black, pink, orange, and yellow, making it look like it's wearing a Halloween costume all year round. But don't let its looks fool you, while it's slow-moving and only about 2 feet long, this little monster is a tough cookie!



Speaking of tough cookies, you'd have to be one to survive in the Gila monster's home. These lizards live in the deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, where it's hot, dry, and sandy. They spend most of their time hiding in burrows and only come out at night to hunt for food. And when it's time for dinner, they feast on eggs, small birds, frogs, and even other lizards.

After hearing about their diet, you might be wondering about the Gila monster's relationship with other animals and humans. Well, Gila monsters usually keep to themselves, but if they feel threatened they will defend themselves using their venomous bite. While their bite is painful, it's rarely fatal to humans. But it's a different story for the smaller animals that cross their path. In fact, Gila monsters are so tough that they don't have many predators. Only creatures like coyotes and birds of prey dare to mess with them.



Before we wrap up, let's talk about the Gila monster's life cycle and some neat facts that make them different from other species. Gila monsters lay eggs, which is pretty common for lizards. But one thing that's unique is the way they care for their eggs. Unlike many reptiles that lay their eggs and leave, Gila monsters stick around to protect their eggs until they hatch. And one super cool fact is that Gila monsters can live for up to 30 years! That's a lot of time for this little monster to make the desert its playground.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) How many venomous lizards are there in the world?
A. Three
B. Four
C. Two
D. One
- 2) How do Gila monsters defend themselves?
A. By hiding in their burrows
B. By playing dead
C. By running away
D. With their venomous bite
- 3) When does the Gila monster come out to hunt for food?
A. At noon
B. In the morning
C. At night
D. During the day
- 4) What kind of places do Gila monsters usually live?
A. Deserts that are hot, dry, and sandy
B. Forests that are cool and shady
C. Lakes and ponds that are wet and muddy
D. Cities that are busy and noisy
- 5) How does the Gila monster care for their eggs?
A. Carries them around
B. Buries them deep in the sand
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D. Ignores them
- 6) How big is the Gila monster?
A. About 2 feet long
B. About 5 feet long
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- 7) Where does the Gila monster spend most of its time?
A. Climbing trees
B. Wandering in open field
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- 8) What does the Gila monster eat?
A. Grass, leaves, fruits
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C. Fish, crabs, shrimp
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- 9) How long can a Gila monster live for?
A. Up to 30 years
B. Up to 20 years
C. Up to 5 years
D. Up to 10 years
- 10) Is the Gila monster's bite fatal to humans?
A. Never
B. Rarely
C. Most of the time
D. Always

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

- 11) "I'm so fast, even the cheetah can't catch up with me!"



- 12) "You might mistake me for a chameleon with my dull, unnoticeable skin."
- 13) "I love small birds, eggs, frogs, and other yummy lizards."
- 14) "My favorite hang out is the desert, it's hot and dry there. I hide in burrows during the day and come out at night to find food."
- 15) "When I'm hungry, I feast on cactus fruits and juicy insects. Yum!"
- 16) "I live in the rainforests, where it's always cool and wet."
- 17) "My colorful skin acts like a signal, warning others to stay away. It's like my personal superhero costume!"
- 18) "My bite? Oh, it's harmless, just like a mosquito bite!"
- 19) "My lifespan is as long as a tortoise, I can live for up to 150 years!"
- 20) "We're so much like chickens, we lay our eggs and forget about them."
- 21) "I'm a daytime hunter! Got to make the most of that sun."
- 22) "I'm a venomous lizard."
- 23) "I'm so small and harmless, every animal is my predator."
- 24) "Everyone is scared of me, even big ol' coyotes and hawks stay clear."
- 25) "Despite my venom, my existence is threatened by habitat loss and pollution."

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

- 26) The lifespan of a Gila monster can be up to 30 years.
- 27) Gila monsters are one of the scariest lizards in the world because of their venomous bite.
- 28) Eggs, small birds, frogs, and other lizards are a part of a Gila monster's diet.
- 29) Gila monsters look far more cool than scary, with their unique patterns and colors.
- 30) Gila monsters are one of the two venomous lizards in the world.
- 31) It's interesting that Gila monsters are immune to their own venom.
- 32) Gila monsters live in the desert.
- 33) Gila monsters go out at night to hunt for food.
- 34) The pattern on the Gila monster's skin is more beautiful than any other lizard.
- 35) It's surprising to think such a slow-moving lizard like the Gila monster can survive in the desert.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 36) Gila monsters have a venomous bite.
- 37) Gila monsters build large nests in trees.
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- 39) Gila monsters are the only venomous lizards in the world.
- 40) Gila monsters can live up to 30 years.
- 41) Gila monsters live exclusively in green forests.
- 42) The bite of a Gila monster is usually fatal to humans.
- 43) Gila monsters are only found in the United States.



- 44) Gila monsters live in the deserts of southwestern United States and northern Mexico.
- 45) Gila monsters usually only come out at night.

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

- 46) Gila monsters are an important part of the desert ecosystem.
- 47) Are gila monsters common pets?
- 48) Gila monsters feed primarily on small animals, eggs, and carrion.
- 49) Gila monsters have venomous saliva.
- 50) Are gila monsters venomous?
- 51) Where do gila monsters live?



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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | |
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| 23. _____ | 48. _____ | |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ | |
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|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>C</u> | 26. <u>fact</u> | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>D</u> | 27. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> | |
| 4. <u>A</u> | 29. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 5. <u>C</u> | 30. <u>fact</u> | |
| 6. <u>A</u> | 31. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 7. <u>D</u> | 32. <u>fact</u> | |
| 8. <u>D</u> | 33. <u>fact</u> | |
| 9. <u>A</u> | 34. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 10. <u>B</u> | 35. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 11. <u>false</u> | 36. <u>true</u> | |
| 12. <u>false</u> | 37. <u>false</u> | |
| 13. <u>true</u> | 38. <u>true</u> | |
| 14. <u>true</u> | 39. <u>false</u> | |
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| 16. <u>false</u> | 41. <u>false</u> | |
| 17. <u>true</u> | 42. <u>false</u> | |
| 18. <u>false</u> | 43. <u>false</u> | |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>true</u> | |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u> | |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>declarative</u> | |
| 22. <u>true</u> | 47. <u>interrogative</u> | |
| 23. <u>false</u> | 48. <u>declarative</u> | |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>declarative</u> | |
| 25. <u>true</u> | 50. <u>interrogative</u> | |



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