



"Zip, zap, zoom!" Meet the ground squirrel, a feisty little creature that loves to dart around in the grasslands and forests. These cute critters are covered in fur that comes in shades of brown, grey, and sometimes black, which helps them blend into their surroundings. They are usually about 9 to 11 inches long, which is about the size of a big ruler, and they have bushy tails that add another 5 to 9 inches to their length. Ground squirrels have strong legs that are just perfect for digging burrows and running fast when they need to.

Speaking of burrows, let's talk about where these fun-loving animals live. Ground squirrels make their homes in burrows, which are like tunnels under the ground. These burrows are not only their homes, but also their hiding places from predators like foxes and hawks. You'll find these burrows in a variety of places, like grasslands, forests, and even in your own backyard if you live near their wild habitats!



Just like us, ground squirrels need food to stay healthy and active. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and small animals. Their diet includes nuts, seeds, fruits, vegetables, and sometimes insects and small birds. But did you know they hibernate in winter? They store food in their burrows to eat when they wake up in the spring.



Ground squirrels have a pretty cool life cycle and relationship with humans and other animals. Did you know that they hibernate in winter and wake up in spring? When they wake up, it's time to find a mate and have babies! While they might be a little naughty by digging holes in lawns, they also eat harmful insects, helping us in their own little way. And let's not forget, their alert calls warning of predators are a great help to other animals too. So, that's the story of the ground squirrel, a small animal with a big personality!

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

- 1) Why are ground squirrels sometimes considered helpful to humans?
A. They are great climbers B. They eat harmful insects
C. They are good pets D. They keep larger animals away from homes

- 2) Where do ground squirrels make their homes?
A. Underground B. In trees
C. Under rocks D. On tree branches

- 3) What do ground squirrels use their strong legs for?
A. Swimming in rivers B. Hanging upside down
C. Climbing trees D. Digging burrows

- 4) What do ground squirrels eat?
A. Only small animals B. Only nuts and seeds
C. Only plants D. Both plants and small animals

- 5) When do ground squirrels wake up from hibernation?
A. In the fall B. In the winter
C. In the summer D. In the spring

- 6) What color does the fur of a ground squirrel come in?
A. Brown, Grey, and Black B. Green, Orange, and Purple
C. White, Black, and Grey D. Red, Yellow, and Blue

- 7) Who are the predators of ground squirrels?
A. Foxes and Hawks B. Tigers and Vultures
C. Lions and Eagles D. Wolves and Owls

- 8) What do ground squirrels do during the winter?
A. They do not change their habits B. They hibernate
C. They migrate to warmer places D. They build nests in dense shrubs

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

- 9) "I travel south during the winter."
- 10) "I can be as long as a ruler!"
- 11) "Insects and small birds? Ew, no! I strictly eat grass."
- 12) "I like to build my home on the branches of trees."
- 13) "My home is a tunnel under the ground! I use it to sleep and hide from other animals."
- 14) "My tail is short, probably as short as your little finger."
- 15) "Unlike you, I hibernate in winter. I sleep for a long time and wake up in spring."
- 16) "I help spread seeds when I bury my food. Nature's little gardener, that's me!"
- 17) "My fur changes color to green in the summer, to blend with the grass."
- 18) "Before hibernating, I don't gather any food. I find fresh food in the middle of winter."
- 19) "My menu is quite diverse because I eat plants and small animals."



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

- 20) Ground squirrels usually have brown, grey or black coloured fur.
- 21) Ground squirrels are the cutest when they stand on their hind legs, showing off their long tails.
- 22) Ground squirrels hibernate during winter months.
- 23) Ground squirrels eating small birds is the most interesting thing about their diet.
- 24) Burrows, used as homes and safe places from predators, are where ground squirrels usually live.
- 25) Ground squirrels are annoying because they eat plants and damage gardens.
- 26) Ground squirrels store food in their burrows to eat during hibernation in winter.
- 27) Ground squirrels eat a combination of plants and animals.
- 28) Ground squirrels are the best animals to watch because they are always so active.
- 29) It is quite extraordinary how ground squirrels store food in their burrows for the whole winter.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 30) Ground squirrels warn other animals of predators with their calls.
- 31) Ground squirrels make their homes high in trees.
- 32) Ground squirrels are omnivores.
- 33) Ground squirrels eat only small animals.
- 34) Not only do ground squirrels eat nuts and fruits, they also eat small birds.
- 35) Ground squirrels hibernate in the summer.
- 36) Ground squirrels are carnivores.
- 37) Ground squirrels are usually 4 to 6 feet long.
- 38) Ground squirrels are usually shades of brown, grey or black.
- 39) Ground squirrels hibernate during winter.

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

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



Ground Squirrel

Name: _____

- 45) Ground squirrels hibernate during the winter.
- 46) Do ground squirrels hibernate during winter?
- 47) Ground squirrels are excellent diggers.
- 48) Ground squirrels eat seeds, nuts, and fruits.
- 49) Why do ground squirrels dig burrows?
- 50) How fast can ground squirrels run?



Ground Squirrel

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____

2. _____ 27. _____

3. _____ 28. _____

4. _____ 29. _____

5. _____ 30. _____

6. _____ 31. _____

7. _____ 32. _____

8. _____ 33. _____

9. _____ 34. _____

10. _____ 35. _____

11. _____ 36. _____

12. _____ 37. _____

13. _____ 38. _____

14. _____ 39. _____

15. _____ 40. _____

16. _____ 41. _____

17. _____ 42. _____

18. _____ 43. _____

19. _____ 44. _____

20. _____ 45. _____

21. _____ 46. _____

22. _____ 47. _____

23. _____ 48. _____

24. _____ 49. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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Name: **Answer Key**

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1. **B** 26. **fact**

2. **A** 27. **fact**

3. **D** 28. **opinion**

4. **D** 29. **opinion**

5. **D** 30. **true**

6. **A** 31. **false**

7. **A** 32. **true**

8. **B** 33. **false**

9. **Not** 34. **true**

10. **Would** 35. **false**

11. **Not** 36. **false**

12. **Not** 37. **false**

13. **Would** 38. **true**

14. **Not** 39. **true**

15. **Would** 40. **B**

16. **Would** 41. **A**

17. **Not** 42. **D**

18. **Not** 43. **A**

19. **Would** 44. **C**

20. **fact** 45. **declarative**

21. **opinion** 46. **interrogative**

22. **fact** 47. **declarative**

23. **opinion** 48. **declarative**

24. **fact** 49. **interrogative**

25. **opinion** 50. **interrogative**



Ground Squirrel

Name: _____

Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Why are ground squirrels sometimes considered helpful to humans? (paragraph 4)
A. They are great climbers B. They eat harmful insects
C. D.
- 2) Where do ground squirrels make their homes? (paragraph 2)
A. Underground B. In trees
C. D.
- 3) What do ground squirrels use their strong legs for? (paragraph 1)
A. Swimming in rivers B.
C. D. Digging burrows
- 4) What do ground squirrels eat? (paragraph 3)
A. Only small animals B. Only nuts and seeds
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A. Brown, Grey, and Black B.
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A. They do not change their habits B. They hibernate
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- 9) "I travel south during the winter." (paragraph 4)
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