Guess what, there's a creature named after two animals – the ant and the lion, but it's not related to either! The ant lion, as it's called, is actually a tiny insect that looks a bit like a dragonfly when it's fully grown. In their younger stage, they're called 'ant lion larvae' and look like little bugs with big jaws. These guys are unique with their flat bodies, six tiny legs and a pair of fearsome jaws.

Speaking of their looks, did you know these creatures are also famous for their homes? Ant lions usually live in sandy or dusty areas where they dig small, funnel-shaped pits. These



pits are not just any home, they are clever traps for unsuspecting prey, mainly ants. When an ant stumbles into the pit, the ant lion waits at the bottom to catch it with its large jaws.

Now that we've seen their homes, let's dive into their life cycle and diet. Ant lions start their life as an egg, then they hatch into larvae (the stage where they dig pits and catch ants), and finally transform into adults. The adult stage is the only time they can fly and they mostly eat pollen and nectar. Interestingly, adult ant lions don't have any jaws to eat solid food, so they only have a short time to find a mate and lay eggs before they starve.



Even though they might seem a little scary, ant lions are harmless to humans and are even beneficial. Their pits help aerate the soil and their hunting reduces the number of ants, which can be pests. They also serve as food for other creatures like birds and spiders. So, next time you see a tiny pit in a sandy area, remember it could be the home of an ant lion, an insect that's not an ant or a lion but an amazing creature in its own right.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What does the ant lion look like when it's fully grown?

A. It looks like a dragonfly. B. It looks like an ant.

C. It looks like a lion. D. It looks like a sparrow.

2) Do ant lions help in reducing the number of ants?

A. No, they have no interactions with ants.

B. Yes, their hunting reduces the number of ants.

C. No, they actually increase the number of ants.

D. No, they do not affect the number of ants.

3) Where do ant lions usually live?

A. They live in sandy areas.

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C. They live in the forest.

D. They live in grasslands.

4) Do ant lions lay eggs?

A. No, they reproduce in a different way.

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7) What is the shape of the pits ant lions dig?

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A. Yes, other creatures like birds and spiders eat them.

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10) In which stage do ant lions fly?

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

- 11) "My diet is completely different from my larvae stage to when I grow my wings. From ants to pollen."
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Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 28) During their adult period, ant lions feed mostly on nectar and pollen.
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- 31) It is amazing how ant lions create such tiny homes without any tools.
- **32)** The ant lion is an insect and not a type of ant or lion.
- 33) Ant lions are the most interesting when they are in the stage of larva and hunting for food.
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- 37) It's amazing how fast an antlion can catch an ant in its pit.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **38)** Birds and spiders eat ant lions.
- **39**) Ant lions bites contain a toxin that is deadly to humans.
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- 41) Adult ant lions may eat up to 200 ants a day!
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Ant Lions

Name:

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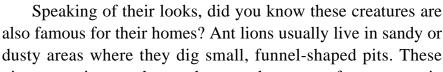
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Creature

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Name: Answer Key

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Ant Lions Name: Answer Key

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Ant Lions

Name: Answer Key

			Allt Lions
1.	<u>A</u>	26.	false
2.	В	27.	true
3.	<u>A</u>	28.	fact
4.	В	29.	opinion
5.	В	30.	fact
6.	B	31.	opinion
7.	D	32.	fact
8.	<u>A</u>	33.	opinion
9.	A	34.	fact
10.	D	35.	fact
11.	true	36.	opinion
12.	true	37.	opinion
13.	true	38.	true
14.	false	39.	false
15.	true	40.	true
16.	false	41.	false
17.	false	42.	true
18.	true	43.	false
19.	true	44.	false
20.	true	45.	false
21.	false	46.	true
22.	true	47.	true
23.	false	48.	declarative
24.	true	49.	exclamatory
25.	false	50.	declarative

51.	interrogative
52.	interrogative
53.	exclamatory
54.	declarative
55.	interrogative
56.	exclamatory



Solve each problem.

U	se	the	article	e to	answer	the	question.
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A. It looks like a dragonfly.

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D.

C.

2) Do ant lions help in reducing the number of ants? (paragraph 4)

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C. D.

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jaws.

C. D.

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