



Whoosh! Did you see that tiny creature darting by in the moonlight? That's a deer mouse! It's a small rodent, about the size of a sparrow, with big black eyes and a tail almost as long as its body. They have a brownish color on top, just like a deer, and a clean white belly, which is why they are called 'deer mice'. Small and swift, they are often seen in the wild, but can be very hard to spot because of their speedy nature.



Speaking of being hard to spot, let's delve into where these little creatures make their homes. Deer mice are found all across North America, from the hot, dry deserts to the cold, snowy mountains. They prefer to live in hollow logs, under piles of leaves, or even in burrows underground. These mice are quite adventurous and don't mind changing homes if it means finding more food or avoiding predators!

Adventurous indeed, but what does a deer mouse like to munch on? Their diet is pretty varied, including seeds, fruits, insects, and even small animals. Sometimes, they store food in their homes for later, just like us humans stocking up our fridges! This helps them survive during the colder months when food is not as easy to find.



From their diet to their homes, deer mice have quite a few tricks up their tiny sleeves. They are nocturnal creatures, which means they are most active at night, using their keen senses of hearing and smell to avoid predators and find food. Deer mice are also known to play a role in spreading seeds and controlling insect populations, which helps keep our ecosystems balanced. So, the next time you spot a little deer mouse scurrying by, remember, they're a lot more than just cute - they're tiny heroes of the ecosystem!

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

- 1) What does a deer mouse usually eat?
 - A. Milk, cheese and grains
 - B. Seeds, fruits, insects, and small animals
 - C. Grass, flowers, and leaves
 - D. Cheese, bread and fruits

- 2) What groups of animals are part of a deer mouse's diet?
 - A. Cats
 - B. Mice
 - C. Insects
 - D. Birds

- 3) What physical feature is as long as a deer mouse's body?
 - A. Their ears
 - B. Their tail
 - C. Their nose
 - D. Their legs

- 4) Which best describes a deer mouse?
 - A. Carnivore
 - B. Insectivore
 - C. Omnivore
 - D. Herbivore

- 5) What role do deer mice play in ecosystems?
 - A. Eating all the seeds
 - B. Spreading seeds and controlling insect populations
 - C. Destroying insect populations
 - D. Feeding predators

- 6) When are deer mice most active?
 - A. In the afternoon
 - B. During the day
 - C. At night
 - D. In the morning

- 7) What size is the deer mouse compared to a bird?
 - A. Size of a hummingbird
 - B. Size of a sparrow
 - C. Size of a hawk
 - D. Size of a penguin

- 8) What is the color of the belly of deer mice?
 - A. Black
 - B. Brown
 - C. Grey
 - D. White

- 9) Where are deer mice most commonly found?
 - A. Africa
 - B. North America
 - C. South America
 - D. Europe

- 10) Why do deer mice change their homes?
 - A. To find a bigger home
 - B. They quickly outgrow their old homes
 - C. To find more food or avoid predators
 - D. For no particular reason

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

- 11) "I use my super sensitive hearing and nose to avoid predators and hunt for food at night!"



- 12) "Sometimes you can spot me scurrying under logs or in deep burrows."
- 13) "I may look like a little cheese thief, but I munch on seeds, fruits, and even insects!"
- 14) "I only eat seeds from a specific tree. If that tree ceases to exist, I'd rather starve."
- 15) "Just like you, I have a home. Mine is in hollow logs, underground burrows, or even under piles of leaves."
- 16) "We only stay in one place our entire life!"
- 17) "Just like you guys stock up food, I store food in my house too!"
- 18) "I'm quite noticeable because of my bright red coat!"
- 19) "I only live in the lush green meadows, nowhere else."
- 20) "I do most of my activities during the day. Usually first thing in the morning."

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

- 21) Deer mice are active during the night.
- 22) It is fascinating that deer mice can live in such different environments.
- 23) The diet of deer mice includes seeds, fruits, insects, and small animals.
- 24) The most amazing thing about deer mice is how they can change homes if they need to get more food.
- 25) Deer mice live in various places including hollow logs, piles of leaves, or burrows in the ground.
- 26) Deer mice are way more interesting than squirrels because they eat a wider variety of food.
- 27) The baby deer mice, known as "pinkies," are born blind and without fur.
- 28) Deer mice reside in different parts of North America such as deserts and mountains.
- 29) Deer mice are very cute with their big black eyes and long tails.
- 30) Deer mice are the most adorable mice because of their white bellies.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 31) Deer mice eat on insects and seeds.
- 32) Deer mice have short stubby tails.
- 33) Deer mice have a tail about as long as their body.
- 34) A deer mouse's diet consists only of seeds.
- 35) Deer mice can be found all across North America.
- 36) Deer mice are most active during the day.
- 37) Deer mice prefer to live in tall, dried out trees to stay away from predators.
- 38) Deer mice are only found in the mountains.
- 39) Deer mice are most active at night.
- 40) Deer mice play a role in spreading seeds.

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

- 41) They are mostly nocturnal creatures and are most active during the night.



- 42) How many babies do deer mice usually have?
- 43) Deer mice are also great swimmers and can traverse through water with ease.
- 44) A deer mouse is a small rodent that is native to North America.
- 45) How do deer mice communicate with each other?
- 46) What do deer mice look like?



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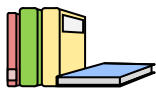
Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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- 11) "I use my super sensitive hearing and nose to avoid predators and hunt for food at night!"



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| 1. | <u> B </u> | 26. | <u> opinion </u> |
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| 4. | <u> C </u> | 29. | <u> opinion </u> |
| 5. | <u> B </u> | 30. | <u> opinion </u> |
| 6. | <u> C </u> | 31. | <u> true </u> |
| 7. | <u> B </u> | 32. | <u> false </u> |
| 8. | <u> D </u> | 33. | <u> true </u> |
| 9. | <u> B </u> | 34. | <u> false </u> |
| 10. | <u> C </u> | 35. | <u> true </u> |
| 11. | <u> true </u> | 36. | <u> false </u> |
| 12. | <u> true </u> | 37. | <u> false </u> |
| 13. | <u> true </u> | 38. | <u> false </u> |
| 14. | <u> false </u> | 39. | <u> true </u> |
| 15. | <u> true </u> | 40. | <u> true </u> |
| 16. | <u> false </u> | 41. | <u> declarative </u> |
| 17. | <u> true </u> | 42. | <u> interrogative </u> |
| 18. | <u> false </u> | 43. | <u> declarative </u> |
| 19. | <u> false </u> | 44. | <u> declarative </u> |
| 20. | <u> false </u> | 45. | <u> interrogative </u> |
| 21. | <u> fact </u> | 46. | <u> interrogative </u> |
| 22. | <u> opinion </u> | | |
| 23. | <u> fact </u> | | |
| 24. | <u> opinion </u> | | |
| 25. | <u> fact </u> | | |

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

- 1) What does a deer mouse usually eat? (paragraph 3)
 - A. _____
 - B. Seeds, fruits, insects, and small animals
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
- 2) What groups of animals are part of a deer mouse's diet? (paragraph 3)
 - A. _____
 - B. Mice
 - C. Insects
 - D. _____
- 3) What physical feature is as long as a deer mouse's body? (paragraph 1)
 - A. _____
 - B. Their tail
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
- 4) Which best describes a deer mouse? (paragraph 3)
 - A. Carnivore
 - B. Insectivore
 - C. Omnivore
 - D. _____
- 5) What role do deer mice play in ecosystems? (paragraph 4)
 - A. Eating all the seeds
 - B. Spreading seeds and controlling insect populations
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
- 6) When are deer mice most active? (paragraph 4)
 - A. In the afternoon
 - B. During the day
 - C. At night
 - D. _____
- 7) What size is the deer mouse compared to a bird? (paragraph 1)
 - A. _____
 - B. Size of a sparrow
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
- 8) What is the color of the belly of deer mice? (paragraph 1)
 - A. _____
 - B. Brown
 - C. _____
 - D. White
- 9) Where are deer mice most commonly found? (paragraph 2)
 - A. Africa
 - B. North America
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
- 10) Why do deer mice change their homes? (paragraph 2)
 - A. To find a bigger home
 - B. _____
 - C. To find more food or avoid predators
 - D. _____

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- 11) "I use my super sensitive hearing and nose to avoid predators and hunt for food at night!"
(paragraph 4)

- 12) "Sometimes you can spot me scurrying under logs or in deep burrows." (paragraph 2)