



Buckle up, kids, because we're about to dive into the world of gopher snakes! It's a reptile that slithers around on the ground, but don't be scared, these guys are harmless, and actually quite cool. Gopher snakes can grow up to 9 feet long, that's taller than most grown-ups! They have a pretty neat pattern on their skin that helps them blend in with their environment, making them masters of hide and seek.

Speaking of environments, would you like to know where these awesome reptiles live? Gopher snakes can be found across North America, from the sunny beaches of California to the beautiful plains of the Midwest. They are at home in a variety of places like deserts, forests, and even your own backyard. These snakes are pretty adaptable, and that's part of what makes them so fascinating!

Now that we've chatted about where they live, let's talk about what gopher snakes eat. Gopher snakes have a really varied diet, but their favorite food is, you guessed it, gophers! But don't worry, they also eat other small creatures like mice, birds, and eggs. They're not picky eaters, and that's a good thing because it helps keep the ecosystem balanced.



Let's wrap things up by talking about gopher snakes and us, humans. These snakes are often misunderstood, but they're actually handy to have around because they help control pest populations. And here's a fun fact: gopher snakes will often mimic rattlesnakes to scare off predators, but they're harmless to humans. So next time you see a gopher snake, remember it's just doing its job, helping to keep our world healthy and balanced.





**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) Where do gopher snakes often live?
  - A. Only in backyards where they can find a lot of squirrels to eat.
  - B. Only in deserts because they like the heat.
  - C. A variety of places such as deserts and forests.
  - D. Only in forests where they can hide well.
- 2) What do gopher snakes do to scare off predators?
  - A. Release a foul smelling odor
  - B. Mimic rattlesnakes
  - C. Make a loud yelling sound
  - D. Hiss at them
- 3) Why are gopher snakes handy to have around?
  - A. They are pets
  - B. They scare away other snakes
  - C. They help control pest populations
  - D. They eat plants
- 4) Where can you find gopher snakes?
  - A. Europe
  - B. North America
  - C. Antarctica
  - D. Africa
- 5) What is the favourite food of gopher snakes?
  - A. Birds
  - B. Gophers
  - C. Seeds
  - D. Fruits
- 6) How long can gopher snakes grow?
  - A. Up to 6 feet long
  - B. Up to 12 feet long
  - C. Up to 3 feet long
  - D. Up to 9 feet long
- 7) What helps gopher snakes blend in with their environment?
  - A. The pattern on their skin
  - B. Their small size
  - C. Their ability to change colors
  - D. Their ability to mimic bird songs
- 8) If they can't find their favorite food, what else might you find gopher snakes eating?
  - A. Grass, seeds and nuts
  - B. Mice, birds, and eggs
  - C. Fruit, vegetables and leaves
  - D. Rocks and dirt

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

- 9) "My skin has a cool pattern that helps me blend in with the places where I live."
- 10) "I can grow up to 9 feet long. That's taller than most grown-ups!"
- 11) "I'm a big fan of gophers, they're my favorite food. But I also eat mice, birds and even eggs!"
- 12) "I've never been seen in a desert, I prefer to live only in the forest."
- 13) "You might see me mimicking a rattlesnake to scare off predators. But don't worry, I'm harmless to humans!"
- 14) "I can be seen only in Europe."



- 15) "You might see me in your backyard or in places like deserts and forests."
- 16) "I am actually pretty small, just about as long as a pencil."
- 17) "I am so fussy about my diet. I only eat gophers, nothing else will do."
- 18) "Gophers love to munch on me, which is how I got my name!"

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

- 19) Gophers are a preferred meal for gopher snakes.
- 20) It's really cool that gopher snakes can be found in so many different types of habitats, from deserts to forests.
- 21) Gopher snakes live in North America.
- 22) The way gopher snakes slither around is much cooler than how other creatures move.
- 23) Gopher snakes can reach a length of up to 9 feet.
- 24) The ability of gopher snakes to eat a variety of small creatures is just amazing.
- 25) Gopher snakes consume a variety of creatures including mice, birds, and eggs.
- 26) Gopher snakes can be found in various habitats, including deserts and forests.
- 27) It's amazing that a gopher snake can grow so much larger than a human.
- 28) It is amazing that gopher snakes can mimic rattlesnakes to scare off predators.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 29) Gopher snakes are found across North America.
- 30) Gopher snakes are only found in California.
- 31) Gopher snakes can mimic rattlesnakes to scare off predators.
- 32) Gopher snakes only eat gophers, nothing else.
- 33) Gopher snakes can grow up to 9 feet long.
- 34) Gopher snakes' bite is lethal.
- 35) Gopher snakes can only be found in deserts.
- 36) Gopher snakes can grow up to 20 feet long.
- 37) Gopher snakes eat gophers, mice, birds, and eggs.
- 38) Gopher snakes are adaptable to different environments.

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

- 39) Gopher snakes are primarily nocturnal and hunt at night.
- 40) Why are they called gopher snakes?
- 41) Gopher snakes are known for their ability to mimic rattlesnakes.
- 42) Gopher snakes are non-venomous snakes.
- 43) How do gopher snakes defend themselves?
- 44) Where do gopher snakes live?



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|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 31. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 32. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 33. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 34. _____ |
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| 15. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 20. _____ |           |
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- 9) "My skin has a cool pattern that helps me blend in with the places where I live."
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- 12) "I've never been seen in a desert, I prefer to live only in the forest."
- 13) "You might see me mimicking a rattlesnake to scare off predators. But don't worry, I'm harmless to humans!"
- 14) "I can be seen only in Europe."



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- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>C</u>        | 26. <u>fact</u>          |
| 2. <u>B</u>        | 27. <u>opinion</u>       |
| 3. <u>C</u>        | 28. <u>opinion</u>       |
| 4. <u>B</u>        | 29. <u>true</u>          |
| 5. <u>B</u>        | 30. <u>false</u>         |
| 6. <u>D</u>        | 31. <u>true</u>          |
| 7. <u>A</u>        | 32. <u>false</u>         |
| 8. <u>B</u>        | 33. <u>true</u>          |
| 9. <u>true</u>     | 34. <u>false</u>         |
| 10. <u>true</u>    | 35. <u>false</u>         |
| 11. <u>true</u>    | 36. <u>false</u>         |
| 12. <u>false</u>   | 37. <u>true</u>          |
| 13. <u>true</u>    | 38. <u>true</u>          |
| 14. <u>false</u>   | 39. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 15. <u>true</u>    | 40. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 16. <u>false</u>   | 41. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 17. <u>false</u>   | 42. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 18. <u>false</u>   | 43. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 19. <u>fact</u>    | 44. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 20. <u>opinion</u> |                          |
| 21. <u>fact</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) Where do gopher snakes often live? (paragraph 2)
  - A. ☐
  - B. Only in deserts because they like the heat. ☐
  - C. A variety of places such as deserts and forests. ☐
  - D. ☐
- 2) What do gopher snakes do to scare off predators? (paragraph 4)
  - A. Release a foul smelling odor ☐
  - B. Mimic rattlesnakes ☐
  - C. ☐
  - D. ☐
- 3) Why are gopher snakes handy to have around? (paragraph 4)
  - A. ☐
  - B. They scare away other snakes ☐
  - C. They help control pest populations ☐
  - D. ☐
- 4) Where can you find gopher snakes? (paragraph 2)
  - A. ☐
  - B. North America ☐
  - C. ☐
  - D. ☐
- 5) What is the favourite food of gopher snakes? (paragraph 3)
  - A. Birds ☐
  - B. Gophers ☐
  - C. ☐
  - D. ☐
- 6) How long can gopher snakes grow? (paragraph 1)
  - A. ☐
  - B. Up to 12 feet long ☐
  - C. ☐
  - D. Up to 9 feet long ☐
- 7) What helps gopher snakes blend in with their environment? (paragraph 1)
  - A. The pattern on their skin ☐
  - B. Their small size ☐
  - C. ☐
  - D. ☐
- 8) If they can't find their favorite food, what else might you find gopher snakes eating? (paragraph 3)
  - A. Grass, seeds and nuts ☐
  - B. Mice, birds, and eggs ☐
  - C. ☐
  - D. ☐

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

- 9) "My skin has a cool pattern that helps me blend in with the places where I live." (paragraph 1) ☐
- 10) "I can grow up to 9 feet long. That's taller than most grown-ups!" (paragraph 1) ☐
- 11) "I'm a big fan of gophers, they're my favorite food. But I also eat mice, birds and even eggs!" (paragraph 3) ☐



12) "I've never been seen in a desert, I prefer to live only in the forest." (paragraph 2)