



Imagine a tiny bird with a big personality, that's the Montezuma quail for you! These little fellows, also called Mearns's quails, are quite the sight with their black and white spotted bodies and chestnut belly. Their heads are decorated with a white 'cotton ball' top and males have a bold black and white face pattern. These little birds are not only cute but also full of character and surprises!

From the colourful portrait we just painted, you might be wondering where such unique creatures live. The Montezuma quails are native to Mexico, but they can also be found in the southern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the United States. They feel right at home in grasslands, oak woodlands, and pine forests, where they can find plenty of cover. Despite their small size, these birds are experts when it comes to camouflage and hiding from danger.

Having touched on their expertise in hiding, it's only fair we delve into their daily routines and what they munch on. These birds are omnivores, which means they enjoy a diet of both plants and insects. Their favourite menu includes bulbs and tubers, but they also eat beetles, ants, and other small bugs when they can find them. Unlike other quail species that forage in open areas, Montezuma quails prefer to search for food under the cover of vegetation.

Finally, let's explore the fascinating life cycle of these adorable birds and their relationship with us humans. Montezuma quails form lifelong pairs and lay about a dozen eggs that hatch in less than a month. While they might be a bit shy around humans, they play an important role in our ecosystem by helping to control insect populations. So, not only are they a pretty sight, they also help us out in their own little way, making them a truly special bird!





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is the other name for Montezuma quails?
A. Mearns's quails B. Chaparral quails
C. Speckled quails D. California quails
- 2) What is a favorite food of Montezuma quails?
A. Tree bark B. Seeds
C. Nuts D. Bulbs
- 3) What country are Montezuma quails native to?
A. Mexico B. Canada
C. Argentina D. Brazil
- 4) What role do Montezuma quails play in the ecosystem?
A. They help to pollinate flowers B. They contribute to soil formation
C. They disperse seeds across the forest D. They help to control insect populations
- 5) How long does it take for Montezuma quail eggs to hatch?
A. Less than a month B. About 2 days
C. About 6 months D. About 2 months
- 6) What is the color of Montezuma quails' belly?
A. Grey B. White
C. Chestnut D. Black
- 7) Where can Montezuma quails be found in the United States?
A. Eastern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas B. Western parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas
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A. Piscivorous diet B. Carnivorous diet
C. Herbivorous diet D. Omnivorous diet
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A. Three to five B. More than twenty
C. Only one D. About a dozen
- 10) What kind of habitats do Montezuma quails prefer?
A. Alpine meadows, tundra, and swamps B. Grasslands, oak woodlands, and pine forests
C. Desert scrublands, riverbanks, and beaches D. Rainforests, wetlands, and coral reefs



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

- 11) "I'm a vegetarian, I only eat plants."
- 12) "You see, dining is an important part of my day. It's when I munch on a mix of plants and insects."
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- 14) "You can spot me easily by my black and white spotted body and chestnut belly."
- 15) "I prefer living in the wide-open grasslands, but oak woodlands and pine forests are also quite comfy for me."
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- 26) "If you're looking for me in the United States, you should check in Texas, New Mexico or Arizona."
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- 28) "I don't like insects, they're not part of my diet."
- 29) "Did you know I come from the northern parts of the United States?"

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

- 30) The diet of a Montezuma quail consists of both plants and insects.
- 31) The Montezuma quail is the most unique species of quail.
- 32) Montezuma quails are found in Mexico, and the southern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the United States.
- 33) Montezuma quails are the best birds because they have a lifetime partner.
- 34) Montezuma quails have black and white spotted bodies.
- 35) It is amazing that Montezuma quails can lay over a dozen eggs.
- 36) Montezuma quails lay about a dozen eggs that take less than a month to hatch.
- 37) Male Montezuma quails can be identified by their black and white face pattern.
- 38) The Montezuma quail is the most unique looking bird, thanks to its black and white spotted body.





- 58) The striking patterns on male Montezuma quails are absolutely amazing!
- 59) Tiny Montezuma quails weighing just 6 to 8 ounces is an adorable sight!
- 60) Montezuma quails are remarkably elusive creatures, adding to their allure!
- 61) Montezuma quails can be found in the southwestern United States.
- 62) Do Montezuma quails build nests?
- 63) It's stunning that these quails prefer walking to flying!
- 64) Montezuma quails primarily feed on seeds, insects, and other small invertebrates.
- 65) How fast can Montezuma quails fly?
- 66) The way these animals blend into their habitat with distinctive camouflage is genuinely fascinating!
- 67) Where do Montezuma quails live?
- 68) These fascinating birds often live in pairs or small family groups, it's truly heartwarming!
- 69) The fact that these quails use their beaks to dig for bulbs and corms is so impressive!
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- 71) Check out the short, round bodies of Montezuma quails, they are astounding!



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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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- 39) The "cotton ball" on top of a Montezuma quail's head is the most adorable thing about them.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 40) Montezuma quails form lifelong pairs.
- 41) Montezuma quails lay hundreds of eggs at a time.
- 42) Montezuma quails are native to Mexico.
- 43) Montezuma quails have a black 'cotton ball' top.
- 44) Montezuma quails are omnivores.
- 45) Montezuma quails can only be found in Mexico.
- 46) Montezuma quails only eat leaves and tree bark.
- 47) Montezuma quails search for food in open areas.
- 48) Male Montezuma quails have a black and white pattern on their face.
- 49) Montezuma quails can be found in Texas.

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

- 50) They're known for their distinctive call.
A. They have
B. They will
C. They can
D. They are
- 51) Montezuma quails aren't found natively in Europe.
A. can't
B. isn't
C. do not
D. are not
- 52) Montezuma quails don't usually fly long distances.
A. can't
B. does not
C. doesn't
D. do not
- 53) Montezuma quails aren't very big birds.
A. cannot
B. do not
C. will not
D. are not
- 54) They've got a unique pattern on their feathers.
A. They will
B. They are
C. They have
D. They can
- 55) I'd love to see a Montezuma quail in the wild someday.
A. I will
B. I can
C. I would
D. I have

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

- 56)** Montezuma quails are ground-dwelling birds that prefer to live in areas with dense vegetation.
- 57)** Montezuma quails have a mesmerizing duet call, it's incredible!



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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
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| 3. <u> A </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> D </u> |
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| 5. <u> A </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> C </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> declarative </u> |
| 7. <u> C </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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