



Dive headfirst into the fascinating world of tiny creatures known as termites! These miniature marvels, often mistaken for ants, are usually white or light brown in color and have soft bodies. These little guys are not loners, they live in large groups called colonies, and boy do they like to keep busy! Each termite has a role to play, from the king and queen who lead the colony, to the workers and soldiers who keep things running smoothly.

Speaking of busy, these industrious insects are nature's recyclers, munching away on dead plant material and wood. That's right, their favorite food is cellulose, the main component found in plant and wood material. This wood-munching habit is why you often find them in dead trees, logs, or even in the wooden structures of houses. But don't worry, they don't just destroy, they also help to break down and recycle materials back into the soil.

From munching wood to building colonies, let's swap gears and explore their life cycle. The life of a termite begins as an egg, which hatches into a nymph. These nymphs then grow and change, taking on roles as workers, soldiers, or reproductives (future kings and queens). Once mature, the new kings and queens fly off to start colonies of their own, continuing the cycle of life for these little critters.

Having taken a peek at their life cycle, let's touch on their relationship with us and other animals. While termites can be a nuisance to homeowners, they play a crucial role in the ecosystem by helping to break down dead plant material. They also serve as a food source for many creatures, like ants, birds, and even some mammals! So, while they might be tiny, termites have a huge impact on the world around us.





**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) What color are termites usually?
  - A. Red or pink
  - B. Black or dark brown
  - C. White or light brown
  - D. Green or blue
- 2) What are the large groups where termites live called?
  - A. towns
  - B. hives
  - C. colonies
  - D. kingdoms
- 3) What do termites like to eat?
  - A. Cellulose
  - B. Blood
  - C. Fabric
  - D. Plants
- 4) What other insect are termites sometimes mistaken for?
  - A. beetles
  - B. thrips
  - C. ants
  - D. grasshoppers
- 5) Who consumes termites?
  - A. Flowers, trees, and grasses
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  - D. People, lions, and whales
- 6) Which are roles in a termite colony?
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- 7) Where would you be most likely to find termites?
  - A. Dead trees
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- 8) How does the life of a termite begin?
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- 9) What do termites do with the waste they produce?
  - A. They store it for future use
  - B. They use it to build their nests
  - C. They recycle it back into the soil
  - D. They use it as food
- 10) What role do termites play in the ecosystem?
  - A. Distributing seeds in their waste
  - B. Helping to clean and purify water
  - C. Breaking down dead plant material
  - D. Pollinating flowers

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

- 11) "We start our lives as eggs, then we hatch into tiny creatures called nymphs."
- 12) "Many creatures like ants, birds, and even some mammals consider us a food source."



- 13) "There's royalty among us termites. We even have a king and queen who lead the termite colony."
- 14) "We don't hatch from eggs."
- 15) "Ever wondered why you find us often in dead trees or logs? It's because we love the taste of wood!"
- 16) "I'm a loner, I prefer living alone rather than in a colony."
- 17) "Houses are just not in our diet."
- 18) "We termites live together in a large group called a colony."
- 19) "After our eggs hatch, we grow into our roles like worker or soldier."
- 20) "You might find us in the wooden parts of your house, just looking for a bite to eat."
- 21) "We termites do not have a king or queen."
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- 24) "We're kind of like the recycling team of the insect world. We break down dead plants and wood."
- 25) "We termites don't like to eat wood."
- 26) "Birds and mammals don't like to eat us, we're too bitter."
- 27) "Cellulose is our favorite food. You could say we're a bit of experts in turning wood into dinner!"

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

- 28) Termites eat dead plant material and wood.
- 29) Termites are much more fascinating than ants because of their different life stages.
- 30) The termite colony is led by a king and queen.
- 31) It's intriguing how termites live in organized colonies with different roles for each termite.
- 32) Termites are tiny creatures that are usually white or light brown and have soft bodies.
- 33) Termites eating their way through a wooden structure is a gross thought.
- 34) Termites serve as a major food source for many animals including ants, birds, and some mammals.
- 35) Termites live in large groups known as colonies.
- 36) Termites are highly underrated for their contribution to the soil.
- 37) Termites are not scary at all because of their small size and soft bodies.

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

- 38) Termites are usually white or light brown in color.
- 39) Baby termites are called queens and kings.
- 40) The life of a termite starts as an egg.
- 41) Termites prefer to live alone.
- 42) Termites help break down dead plant material.
- 43) In a termite colony, all termites have the same role.



- 44) Termites spend their lives in the same colony where they were born.
- 45) Birds and mammals avoid eating termites because they taste like wood.
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- 47) Cellulose is a termite's favorite food.

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

- 48) The fact that termites use their feces to build their nests is both gross and fascinating!
- 49) Call a professional exterminator if you suspect a termite infestation.
- 50) Why can termites be a problem for humans?
- 51) Termites consume wood 24/7 until nothing is left, it's an astonishing dedication!
- 52) Termites live in groups called colonies.
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| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
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- |                  |                          |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>C</u>      | 26. <u>false</u>         | 51. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
| 2. <u>C</u>      | 27. <u>true</u>          | 52. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 3. <u>A</u>      | 28. <u>fact</u>          | 53. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 4. <u>C</u>      | 29. <u>opinion</u>       | 54. <u>declarative</u>   |
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| 18. <u>true</u>  | 43. <u>false</u>         |                          |
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| 20. <u>true</u>  | 45. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 22. <u>true</u>  | 47. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 23. <u>false</u> | 48. <u>exclamatory</u>   |                          |
| 24. <u>true</u>  | 49. <u>imperative</u>    |                          |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>interrogative</u> |                          |



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