



Hey, have you ever seen a tiny dinosaur creeping around in your backyard? Well, it might just be a Texas horned lizard, a cool creature native to North America! Covered in sharp spines and adorned with two large horns on its head, this lizard looks like it jumped right out of a prehistoric picture book. Its flat body, often a mix of brown, gray, and red, is perfect for blending into its surroundings.

Speaking of surroundings, Texas horned lizards have a pretty specific habitat where they feel right at home. These small, spiky fellows love to live in semi-arid regions, which means they're often found in places like Texas, Arizona, and Mexico. They enjoy the warmth and spend their days basking in the sun or burrowing in the sand. But when they're not lounging, they're hunting for yummy ants, their favorite food.

Oh yes, these lizards are quite the ant eaters! In fact, they can eat a large number of ants in one day, sometimes up to 200! Harvester ants are their absolute favorite, but they'll also munch on beetles, spiders, and other small invertebrates if ants are in short supply. This specialized diet helps control ant populations, which is a neat way they interact with other animals.



Now, these little lizards aren't just fascinating to watch, they also have some amazing defense mechanisms against predators. When threatened, they can puff up their bodies to appear larger and more intimidating. Even more extraordinary, they can squirt a stream of blood from the corners of their eyes to scare off attackers! So, next time you see a Texas horned lizard, remember it's not just a mini dinosaur, but also a master of disguise and defense!

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

- 1) What are the Texas horned lizards covered with?
 - A. They are covered with sharp spines.
 - B. They are covered with shiny scales.
 - C. They are covered with furry hair.
 - D. They are covered with soft feathers.

- 2) What can a Texas horned lizard do to scare off attackers?
 - A. Squirt a stream of blood from the corners of its eyes
 - B. Play dead
 - C. Make a loud screeching noise
 - D. Release a foul smelling odor

- 3) Where would you most likely NOT find a Texas horned lizard?
 - A. New York
 - B. Texas
 - C. Arizona
 - D. Mexico

- 4) What is the preferred food of a Texas horned lizard?
 - A. Grasshoppers
 - B. Butterflies
 - C. Earthworms
 - D. Ants

- 5) Where do Texas horned lizards usually live?
 - A. In cold, snowy areas
 - B. In semi-arid regions
 - C. In tropical rainforests
 - D. In bodies of water like rivers and lakes

- 6) What color is the Texas horned lizard?
 - A. They are often a mix of purple, pink, and black.
 - B. They are often a mix of yellow, orange, and brown.
 - C. They are often a mix of green, blue, and white.
 - D. They are often a mix of brown, gray, and red.

- 7) How many ants can a Texas horned lizard eat in one day?
 - A. They can eat up to 200 ants in one day.
 - B. They can eat up to 1000 ants in one day.
 - C. They can eat up to 50 ants in one day.
 - D. They can eat up to 500 ants in one day.

- 8) Which insect is the absolute favorite food of a Texas horned lizard?
 - A. Grasshoppers are their absolute favorite food
 - B. Ladybugs are their absolute favorite food.
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- 9) What do Texas horned lizards do during the day?
 - A. Climb trees and rest on branches
 - B. Swim in rivers and ponds
 - C. Hide underground
 - D. Bask in the sun



- 36) Texas horned lizards can eat up to 200 ants in a day.
- 37) Texas horned lizards only hunt at night.
- 38) Texas horned lizards are often a mix of brown, gray, and red.
- 39) Texas horned lizards can only defend themselves by puffing up their bodies.
- 40) Texas horned lizards are vegetarians and only eat leafy greens.
- 41) Texas horned lizards are mostly found in wet, rainforest regions.
- 42) Texas horned lizards like to live in semi-arid regions.
- 43) Texas horned lizards can squirt blood from their eyes.

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

- 44) Texas horned lizards are often found in desert habitats.
- 45) Can Texas horned lizards shoot blood from their eyes?
- 46) Texas horned lizards are native to the southwestern United States.
- 47) Texas horned lizards have a unique ability to shoot blood from their eyes.
- 48) Where can Texas horned lizards be found?
- 49) What do Texas horned lizards eat?



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| 2. <u> A </u> | 27. <u> fact </u> |
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| 4. <u> D </u> | 29. <u> fact </u> |
| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> |
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| 20. <u> true </u> | 45. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> declarative </u> |
| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> declarative </u> |
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| 25. <u> opinion </u> | |

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 - A. They are covered with sharp spines.
 - B. They are covered with shiny scales.
 - C.
 - D.
- 2) What can a Texas horned lizard do to scare off attackers? (paragraph 4)
 - A. Squirt a stream of blood from the corners of its eyes
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 - A. Climb trees and rest on branches
 - B.
 - C.
 - D. Bask in the sun
- 10) What do Texas horned lizards do when they feel threatened? (paragraph 4)
 - A. They play dead.
 - B. They spit venom.
 - C.
 - D. They puff up their bodies to appear larger and more intimidating.



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

11) "I can survive just fine in snow-filled mountains, they're quite cozy for me." (paragraph 2)

12) "I eat loads of ants. In one day, I can eat up to 200 of them. Yum!" (paragraph 3)