



Did you know, in the world of tiny, secretive, and fascinating creatures, there's a cool little animal called Bailey's pocket mouse? This tiny creature, usually no larger than your thumb, has a coat that is a blend of gray, brown and cream, helping it blend into its desert home. It also sports big, dark eyes, perfect for seeing in the dark, and an adorable, round body. Their most distinctive feature though, is their 'pocket' - a fur-lined pouch on the outside of their cheeks where they store food for later!

Speaking of food, these little pocket mice sure do love to eat! Their diet mainly consists of seeds, but they also munch on green vegetation, and occasionally, small insects. They have a neat trick to deal with the desert's lack of water - they get most of their hydration from the seeds they eat! When it comes to storing food, their cheek pouches can hold a whole day's worth of food.

Now, you might be wondering where these cute critters live. Bailey's pocket mice are found in the arid desert regions of southwestern USA and northwestern Mexico. They burrow into the sandy soil, creating tunnels and chambers where they sleep during the day and avoid predators. At night, they venture out to forage for food, using their long tail for balance and their sharp claws for digging.



Just like us, these pocket mice have neighbors and friends in their habitat. They share their desert home with other animals like owls, snakes, and coyotes, who might think of them as a tasty snack. But don't worry, they have their own set of defenses, like their excellent hearing and fast running speed to escape! So, even though Bailey's pocket mouse might be tiny, it sure is mighty and full of surprises.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What does a Bailey's pocket mouse's pouch look like?
 - A. A big mouth filled with food.
 - B. A fur-lined pouch on the outside of their cheeks.
 - C. A hidden pocket under their arms.
 - D. A small hole on their belly.
- 2) Which country is home to Bailey's pocket mice?
 - A. Spain
 - B. Japan
 - C. Mexico
 - D. India
- 3) How much food can a Bailey's pocket mouse's cheek pouches hold?
 - A. A week's worth of food.
 - B. A small amount of food.
 - C. A whole day's worth of food.
 - D. Three days worth of food.
- 4) When does a Bailey's pocket mouse usually forage for food?
 - A. In the morning.
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 - C. In the afternoon.
 - D. During the day.
- 5) What color is a Bailey's pocket mouse's coat?
 - A. Gray, brown and cream.
 - B. Purple, orange, and blue.
 - C. Yellow, green, and red.
 - D. Black and white stripes.
- 6) How do Bailey's pocket mice hydrate themselves?
 - A. From the desert rain.
 - B. From green vegetation.
 - C. By drinking water stored in their pouches.
 - D. From the seeds they eat.
- 7) How does a Bailey's pocket mouse avoid predators during the day?
 - A. They run fast to escape predators.
 - B. They hide in tree holes.
 - C. They burrow into the sandy soil.
 - D. They blend into the desert with their fur color.
- 8) What do Bailey's pocket mice mainly eat?
 - A. Seeds.
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 - C. Insects.
 - D. Grass.
- 9) From what animal might a Bailey's pocket mouse need to defend itself?
 - A. Rabbits.
 - B. Deer.
 - C. Squirrels.
 - D. Coyotes.
- 10) What do the pocket mice use their sharp claws for?
 - A. Fighting.
 - B. Grooming.
 - C. Climbing.
 - D. Digging.



- 11) What is the most distinctive feature of Bailey's pocket mouse?
- A. Their round body.
 - B. A fur-lined pouch on the outside of their cheeks.
 - C. Their tiny size.
 - D. Their big, dark eyes.

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

- 12) "My fur is a mix of colors, gray, brown, and cream, which helps me blend into my desert home!"
- 13) "I prefer to sleep in open spaces, out in the cool desert air."
- 14) "My hearing is really sharp, that's how I always know when a predator is approaching."
- 15) "I can't stand the taste of vegetation. Small fish are my favorites."
- 16) "I love munching on seeds and plants."
- 17) "My coat is a bright shade of pink, making me stand out in my desert home."
- 18) "I live in the chilly mountain ranges of Canada."
- 19) "Owls, snakes, and coyotes usually ignore me because of my small size."
- 20) "At night, I use my sharp claws to dig for food."
- 21) "I drink gallons of water daily to survive the desert heat."
- 22) "I call the tropical rainforests of Brazil my home."
- 23) "Oh no, I certainly don't eat seeds or insects, I have a strict diet of nectar and pollen."
- 24) "I use my cheek pouches to store two weeks' worth of food."
- 25) "Guess what, I get most of my water from the seeds I eat. I don't have to drink water as often as you humans do!"

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

- 26) Bailey's Pocket Mice use their cheek pouches to store food.
- 27) Nocturnal creatures like pocket mice are more interesting than their daytime counterparts.
- 28) Bailey's Pocket Mice mainly get water from the seeds they consume.
- 29) A pocket mouse's cheek pouches look funny when they are full of food.
- 30) You can find Bailey's Pocket Mice in the desert areas of the United States and Mexico.
- 31) Bailey's pocket mice have the most interesting color among all mice.
- 32) Bailey's Pocket Mice have a very good sense of hearing.
- 33) Bailey's Pocket Mice sometimes eat insects in addition to seeds and green vegetation.
- 34) Bailey's pocket mice are the cutest desert animals, even though they can be as small as your thumb.
- 35) Bailey's pocket mice are the most amazing desert creatures because they can survive without water for long periods of time.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 36) Bailey's pocket mice are often prey to owls or coyotes.
- 37) Most Bailey's pocket mice are red in color.





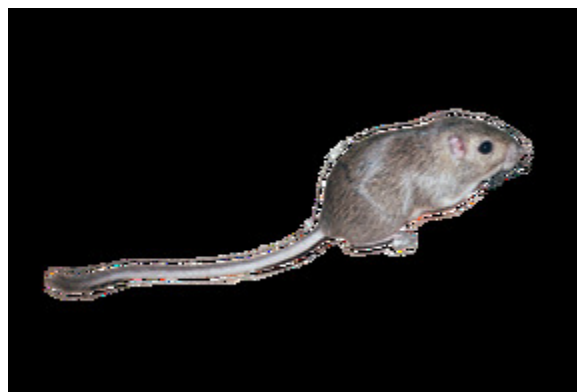
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| 1. <u>B</u> | 26. <u>fact</u> | 51. <u>declarative</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u> | 27. <u>opinion</u> | 52. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> | 53. <u>declarative</u> |
| 4. <u>B</u> | 29. <u>opinion</u> | 54. <u>declarative</u> |
| 5. <u>A</u> | 30. <u>fact</u> | 55. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 6. <u>D</u> | 31. <u>opinion</u> | 56. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 7. <u>C</u> | 32. <u>fact</u> | |
| 8. <u>A</u> | 33. <u>fact</u> | |
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| 10. <u>D</u> | 35. <u>opinion</u> | |
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| 13. <u>false</u> | 38. <u>true</u> | |
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| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>true</u> | |
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| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>B</u> | |
| 22. <u>false</u> | 47. <u>A</u> | |
| 23. <u>false</u> | 48. <u>D</u> | |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>A</u> | |
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- 12) "My fur is a mix of colors, gray, brown, and cream, which helps me blend into my desert home!" (paragraph 1)