



Imagine a tiny superhero, with a shiny armor-like skin, that's always on a mission – meet the dung beetle! These little creatures are known for their sturdy, hard outer shell that shines like armor under the sunlight. With six legs, two large antennae for sensory purposes, and a pair of wings hidden under their hard shell, they are well-equipped for their environment. Despite their small size, often just a few centimeters long, these beetles are incredibly strong and can carry loads over a thousand times their body weight!

Following the trail from our strong little friend, let's delve into their unique diet. Dung beetles have a rather interesting and unusual diet - they eat dung, or animal poop! This not only helps them stay nourished, but also plays a vital role in maintaining the health of our environment by recycling nutrients and controlling parasites and pests. Interestingly, not all dung beetles eat the same kind of poo – some prefer that of herbivores, while others opt for omnivores' or carnivores' droppings.

From their diet, let's roll on to their fascinating life cycle and habitat. These beetles lay their eggs in or around dung, providing a perfect food source for their larvae once they hatch. They can be found almost everywhere around the globe, from the hottest deserts to the chilliest grasslands, making them one of the most widespread animals on Earth. Depending on the species, the life cycle of a dung beetle can vary from two months to a couple of years!



healthier place!



Now that we've delved into their lifestyle, let's explore dung beetles' relationships with other animals and humans. Despite their unappealing diet, dung beetles play a crucial role in our ecosystem, helping to recycle waste and enrich the soil, which benefits humans and other animals alike. Did you know that an elephant's dung can provide food for up to 16,000 dung beetles in just two hours? So, to circle back to our tiny superheroes, they are not just fascinating creatures, but also diligent recyclers, making our world a cleaner, healthier place!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do dung beetles eat to stay nourished?
A. Fruits and vegetables. B. Flowers and nectar.
C. Insects and small animals. D. Dung or animal poop.
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A. In trees and plants. B. In their nests or burrows.
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A. Smooth, wooden shell B. Soft, jelly-like shell
C. Rough, scaly shell D. Shiny, armor-like shell
- 6) What is the role of dung beetles in maintaining the health of the environment?
A. Recycling nutrients and controlling parasites and pests. B. Causing pollution in the ecosystem.
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- 7) Where can dung beetles be found around the globe?
A. Only in wetlands and swamps. B. Only in colder regions like the Arctic.
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A. Less than a month. B. Over five years.
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A. Animal population size B. Parasites and pests
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- 10) What role do dung beetles play in the ecosystem?
A. Affecting the balance of nature negatively. B. Causing pollution and waste accumulation.
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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).



Dung Beetles

Name: _____

- 11) "I eat fruits and vegetables for nourishment, just like you guys."
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- 17) "Not all dung is the same, I prefer dung from herbivores, but some other dung beetles like it from omnivores or carnivores."
- 18) "I only eat the dung of carnivores."
- 19) "I prefer to eat fresh fruits."
- 20) "I lay eggs on trees, so the babies can eat leaves when they hatch."
- 21) "Our life cycle is always a couple of years long."
- 22) "I thrive in many habitats, from the warm sands of deserts to the cool surfaces of grasslands."
- 23) "What some may find gross, I find nutritious - I eat animal dung!"
- 24) "Elephant dung is like a buffet to us. It can feed up to 16,000 of us for two hours!"
- 25) "I'm not too large. Usually I'm only a few centimeters long."
- 26) "My eggs will have to find their own food."
- 27) "I help make the world a cleaner place by turning waste into valuable nutrients for the soil."
- 28) "My shell isn't just for show, it protects my wings and helps me survive."

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

- 29) Dung beetles live everywhere around the globe, from deserts to grasslands.
- 30) Dung beetles have the most interesting diet among all insects.
- 31) Dung beetles eat animal poop.
- 32) It's amazing how small beetles like dung beetles can carry weights thousands of times their size.
- 33) Dung beetles have wings that are hidden under their hard shell.
- 34) It's amazing how fast dung beetles can clean up a mess of animal poop.
- 35) Dung beetles lay their eggs in or around dung.
- 36) Dung beetles are incredibly strong and can carry loads over a thousand times their body weight.
- 37) Dung beetles are cool because they eat dung and help the environment.
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Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 39) Dung beetles are found in both deserts and grasslands.
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- 45) Dung beetles' eggs are laid under leaves.
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Dung Beetles

Name: _____

- 47)** Dung beetles eat animal poop.
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Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 49) You'll find them in different habitats around the world.

 - A. You shall
 - B. You will
 - C. You can
 - D. You would

- 51) Dung beetles don't care if their food is a bit smelly.

 - A. does not
 - B. cannot
 - C. did not
 - D. do not

- 52) It's amazing how they help clean up the environment.

 - A. It is
 - B. It has
 - C. It does
 - D. It was

- 53) They're known for eating poop from other animals.

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

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Determine which choice is the conclusion that can be drawn from the statement.

- 66) Dung beetles use the sun, the moon, and even the Milky Way to navigate. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about dung beetles?

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Dung Beetles

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67) Some dung beetles have strong horns on their heads to fight off other beetles.

What could be the purpose of these horns?

- A. The horns help dung beetles defend their dung from being stolen.
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- A. All beetles can roll items 50 times their weight.
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Dung Beetles

Name: _____

1. _____ 26. _____ 51. _____
2. _____ 27. _____ 52. _____
3. _____ 28. _____ 53. _____
4. _____ 29. _____ 54. _____
5. _____ 30. _____ 55. _____
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Dung Beetles

Name: **Answer Key**

1.	D	26.	Not	51.	D
2.	C	27.	Would	52.	A
3.	C	28.	Would	53.	C
4.	D	29.	fact	54.	exclamatory
5.	D	30.	opinion	55.	imperative
6.	A	31.	fact	56.	interrogative
7.	D	32.	opinion	57.	exclamatory
8.	D	33.	fact	58.	declarative
9.	B	34.	opinion	59.	interrogative
10.	C	35.	fact	60.	declarative
11.	Not	36.	fact	61.	interrogative
12.	Not	37.	opinion	62.	declarative
13.	Would	38.	opinion	63.	imperative
14.	Would	39.	true	64.	exclamatory
15.	Not	40.	false	65.	imperative
16.	Would	41.	true	66.	B
17.	Would	42.	false	67.	A
18.	Not	43.	true	68.	D
19.	Not	44.	false	69.	D
20.	Not	45.	false	70.	A
21.	Not	46.	false		
22.	Would	47.	true		
23.	Would	48.	true		
24.	Would	49.	B		
25.	Would	50.	A		

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