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Speaking of burrows, let's talk about where these fun-loving animals live. Ground squirrels make their homes in burrows, which are like tunnels under the ground. These burrows are not only their homes, but also their hiding places from predators like foxes and hawks. You'll find these burrows in a variety of places, like grasslands, forests, and even in your own backyard if you live near their wild habitats!

Just like us, ground squirrels need food to stay healthy and active. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and small animals. Their diet includes nuts, seeds, fruits, vegetables, and sometimes insects and small birds. But did you know they hibernate in winter? They store food in their burrows to eat when they wake up in the spring.



Ground squirrels have a pretty cool life cycle and relationship with humans and other animals. Did you know that they hibernate in winter and wake up in spring? When they wake up, it's time to find a mate and have babies! While they might be a little naughty by digging holes in lawns, they also eat harmful insects, helping us in their own little way. And let's not forget, their alert calls warning of predators are a great help to other animals too. So, that's the story of the ground squirrel, a small animal with a big personality!



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) Why are ground squirrels sometimes considered helpful to humans?
  - A. They eat harmful insects
  - B. They are good pets
  - C. They are great climbers
  - D. They keep larger animals away from homes
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  - A. In trees
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- 3) What do ground squirrels use their strong legs for?
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  - A. Only plants
  - B. Both plants and small animals
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  - A. In the winter
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  - C. In the summer
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- 6) What color does the fur of a ground squirrel come in?
  - A. White, Black, and Grey
  - B. Green, Orange, and Purple
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- 7) Who are the predators of ground squirrels?
  - A. Wolves and Owls
  - B. Tigers and Vultures
  - C. Lions and Eagles
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- 8) What do ground squirrels do during the winter?
  - A. They do not change their habits
  - B. They migrate to warmer places
  - C. They hibernate
  - D. They build nests in dense shrubs

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

- 9) "I travel south during the winter."
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- 14) "My tail is short, probably as short as your little finger."
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- 16) "I help spread seeds when I bury my food. Nature's little gardener, that's me!"



- 17) "My fur changes color to green in the summer, to blend with the grass."  
18) "Before hibernating, I don't gather any food. I find fresh food in the middle of winter."  
19) "My menu is quite diverse because I eat plants and small animals."

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

- 20) Ground squirrels usually have brown, grey or black coloured fur.  
21) Ground squirrels are the cutest when they stand on their hind legs, showing off their long tails.  
22) Ground squirrels hibernate during winter months.  
23) Ground squirrels eating small birds is the most interesting thing about their diet.  
24) Burrows, used as homes and safe places from predators, are where ground squirrels usually live.  
25) Ground squirrels are annoying because they eat plants and damage gardens.  
26) Ground squirrels store food in their burrows to eat during hibernation in winter  
27) Ground squirrels eat a combination of plants and animals.  
28) Ground squirrels are the best animals to watch because they are always so active.  
29) It is quite extraordinary how ground squirrels store food in their burrows for the whole winter.

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

- 30) Ground squirrels warn other animals of predators with their calls.  
31) Ground squirrels make their homes high in trees.  
32) Ground squirrels are omnivores.  
33) Ground squirrels eat only small animals.  
34) Not only do ground squirrels eat nuts and fruits, they also eat small birds.  
35) Ground squirrels hibernate in the summer.  
36) Ground squirrels are carnivores.  
37) Ground squirrels are usually 4 to 6 feet long.  
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**Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.**

- 40) They're known for their bushy tails.  
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- 42) Ground squirrels aren't just one color.  
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- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 31. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 32. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 33. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 34. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 45. _____ |
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- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>        | 26. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          |
| 2. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>        | 27. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          |
| 3. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>        | 28. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |
| 4. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>        | 29. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |
| 5. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>        | 30. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 6. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>        | 31. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 7. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>        | 32. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 8. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>        | 33. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 9. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>    | 34. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 10. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 35. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 11. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 36. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 12. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 37. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |
| 13. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 38. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 14. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 39. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |
| 15. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 40. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>             |
| 16. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 41. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 17. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 42. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 18. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 43. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 19. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 44. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 20. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 45. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 21. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 46. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 22. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 47. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 23. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 48. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
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| 25. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 50. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |



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