



Ever seen a fluffy ball of fur scurrying across a rocky landscape? That's probably a Hoary Marmot! These adorable creatures are the largest species of the squirrel family. They have a chunky body, short legs, and a bushy tail, covered in silver-gray fur, hence the name 'Hoary', which means 'grayish-white'. Apart from their fur, they also have big, brown eyes, and sharp claws that help them climb rocks and dig burrows.



Remember those sharp claws I mentioned? Well, they aren't just for show! Hoary Marmots use them to dig up roots, leaves, flowers, and berries, which make up most of their diet. During late summer, they munch on lots of food to build up fat reserves for a long winter sleep, also known as hibernation. In winter, they cozy up in their deep burrows and sleep away the cold months.

Just as their diet changes with the seasons, so does their home. Hoary Marmots are found in the mountainous regions of North America, living in high-altitude meadows and rocky areas. They share their habitat with other animals like eagles, foxes, and bears, which are their main predators. To stay safe, they use a system of loud whistles to warn each other about danger, earning them the nickname 'whistle pigs'.



Speaking of 'whistle pigs', humans have a pretty cool relationship with these furry creatures. We mostly leave them alone, but sometimes, we're lucky enough to spot them while hiking or camping. Unlike other marmots, Hoary Marmots are pretty friendly and have been known to approach humans out of curiosity. So next time you're out in the wild, keep an eye out for these fascinating 'whistle pigs' and remember, they're just as curious about us as we are about them!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What family does Hoary Marmot belong to?
A. rabbit family
B. bear family
C. squirrel family
D. deer family
- 2) Where do Hoary Marmots live?
A. Grasslands of Europe
B. Deserts of South America
C. Rainforests of Africa
D. Mountainous regions of North America
- 3) What do Hoary Marmots use their sharp claws for?
A. cutting holes in trees
B. swimming in water
C. digging burrows
D. catching fish
- 4) What do Hoary Marmots do during the winter months?
A. Travel to warmer areas
B. Hibernate
C. They do nothing special
D. Search for food
- 5) What have Hoary Marmots been nicknamed due to their warning system?
A. chattering squirrels
B. howling dogs
C. singing rabbits
D. whistle pigs
- 6) What is the meaning of 'Hoary' in Hoary Marmots?
A. small and fluffy
B. dark-colored
C. long and thin
D. grayish-white
- 7) Which do Hoary Marmots eat?
A. meat and fish
B. bread and cheese
C. nuts and seeds
D. roots and flowers
- 8) Why do Hoary Marmots eat a lot in late summer?
A. to grow bigger and stronger
B. to build up fat reserves
C. to prepare for a long journey
D. to supply nutrition for their babies
- 9) Do Hoary Marmots interact with humans?
A. They are pet animals and live with humans
B. No, they avoid humans at all costs
C. They attack humans when they see them
D. Yes, they have been known to approach humans out of curiosity
- 10) What is the primary danger to Hoary Marmots in their habitat?
A. lions, tigers, and cheetahs
B. eagles, foxes, and bears
C. snakes, crocodiles, and sharks
D. frogs, spiders, and ants

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

- 11) "My happy place is at the beach. Sun, sand, and lots of fun, oh yeah!"
- 12) "Our homes are in the mountains of North America, in high-up meadows and rocky places."
- 13) "I can't wait for winter, that's when I get to eat the most!"



- 14) "Being the smallest member of the squirrel family sure is tough!"
- 15) "We have some cool neighbors like eagles, foxes, and even bears, but they sometimes want to eat us."
- 16) "Eagles, foxes, bears? They're my best friends!"
- 17) "We're really friendly. Some of us might come close to check you out!"
- 18) "When it gets cold, we take a long winter nap in our cozy burrows."
- 19) "Berries and flowers? Yuck! I prefer a diet of pebbles."
- 20) "I always keep my distance away from humans. They scare me!"
- 21) "We have a special way to talk with each other - we use loud whistles to tell our family about danger!"

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

- 22) Hoary Marmots use loud whistles to alert others about possible threats.
- 23) The way hoary marmots use their sharp claws to dig up food is impressive.
- 24) Hoary Marmots live in high-altitude meadows and rocky areas of North America.
- 25) Hoary marmots are the cutest squirrels in the world.
- 26) Roots, leaves, flowers, and berries, form the main part of a Hoary Marmot's diet.
- 27) Hoary marmots whistling to communicate is the most interesting form of animal communication.
- 28) Hoary Marmots sometimes approach humans out of curiosity.
- 29) Hoary Marmots eat a lot of food during late summer to build up fat reserves for hibernation.
- 30) The way hoary marmots sleep for months during winter is amazing.
- 31) The fact that hoary marmots are friendly enough to approach humans is amazing.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 32) Hoary Marmots hibernate during the winter.
- 33) Hoary Marmots have no predators.
- 34) Bear, foxes, and eagles are predators of Hoary Marmots.
- 35) Hoary Marmots only eat meat.
- 36) Hoary Marmots dig up roots and berries for food.
- 37) Hoary Marmots only live in Africa.
- 38) Hoary Marmots are known for being aggressive.
- 39) Hoary Marmots hibernate in the summer.
- 40) Hoary Marmots can be found in the Rocky Mountains.
- 41) Hoary Marmots have sharp claws.

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

- 42) Hoary marmots have a long lifespan, often living over 15 years.
- 43) Can hoary marmots swim?
- 44) Hoary marmots are known for their loud whistles.
- 45) Hoary marmots live in mountainous regions.
- 46) Are hoary marmots good climbers?
- 47) Do hoary marmots hibernate?



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| 1. | C | 26. | fact |
| 2. | D | 27. | opinion |
| 3. | C | 28. | fact |
| 4. | B | 29. | fact |
| 5. | D | 30. | opinion |
| 6. | D | 31. | opinion |
| 7. | D | 32. | true |
| 8. | B | 33. | false |
| 9. | D | 34. | true |
| 10. | B | 35. | false |
| 11. | Not | 36. | true |
| 12. | Would | 37. | false |
| 13. | Not | 38. | false |
| 14. | Not | 39. | false |
| 15. | Would | 40. | true |
| 16. | Not | 41. | true |
| 17. | Would | 42. | declarative |
| 18. | Would | 43. | interrogative |
| 19. | Not | 44. | declarative |
| 20. | Not | 45. | declarative |
| 21. | Would | 46. | interrogative |
| 22. | fact | 47. | interrogative |
| 23. | opinion | | |
| 24. | fact | | |
| 25. | opinion | | |





- 12) "Our homes are in the mountains of North America, in high-up meadows and rocky places." (paragraph 3)