



Imagine a cockroach that's as big as a mouse, that's the giant burrowing cockroach! These creatures are the heavyweights of the cockroach world, reaching up to 3 inches in length and weighing up to 35 grams. They are dark brown in color and have a shiny, hard shell that acts as their outer skeleton. Unlike their regular cockroach cousins, these giants can't fly but they're fantastic burrowers instead.



Speaking of burrowing, these roach giants love to dig deep into the soil of Australia's tropical rainforests. They make their homes underground, using their strong legs and body to create tunnels and burrows. Living in a burrow helps them stay cool during the hot days and warm during chilly nights. Their burrows also provide a safe place to hide from predators.

Now, you might be wondering what these underground dwellers eat. Their main diet consists of dry leaves, wood, and other plant material. This makes them important for the environment as they help break down dead plant matter, returning nutrients back to the soil. Did you know? They can live up to 10 years, which is quite long for an insect!



Let's now talk about their relationship with us humans and other animals. While they might seem scary to some, they are completely harmless and do not pose any threat. In fact, some people even keep these gentle giants as pets. So, whether it's their burrowing skills, their important role in the ecosystem, or their gentle nature, there's certainly more to the giant burrowing cockroach than meets the eye.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) How big can a giant burrowing cockroach get?
 - A. About 3 inches
 - B. The size of a ruler
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 - A. Yes
 - B. Only when they are young
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 - A. No
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- 5) How long can a giant burrowing cockroach live?
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- 6) What color are giant burrowing cockroaches?
 - A. Dark brown
 - B. Dark blue
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- 7) Where do giant burrowing cockroaches live?
 - A. In soil
 - B. In trees
 - C. In houses
 - D. In water
- 8) What type of climate do giant burrowing cockroaches prefer?
 - A. Mountains
 - B. Tropical rainforests
 - C. Deserts
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 - A. In rivers
 - B. In caves
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- 10) Which do giant burrowing cockroaches eat?
 - A. Dry leaves
 - B. Fresh Fruits
 - C. Oak Seeds
 - D. Small insects

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

- 11) "I'm really good for the environment! I break down plant matter and return nutrients to the soil."
- 12) "Wood and plant material are my favorite things to munch on."



- 13) "My home? I dig it deep in the soil of Australia's tropical rainforests."
- 14) "While I can't fly, I love to dig and burrow. That's why I'm called a burrowing cockroach."
- 15) "I don't really live that long, just a year or two."
- 16) "While many other insects live short lives, I can live for up to 10 years! If I went to school, that would mean I was in 4th grade!"
- 17) "When predators come, I safely hide in my burrow."
- 18) "I'm not a giant, I only reach up to 1 inch in length."
- 19) "Oh, I just love to spread my wings and fly!"
- 20) "Some people think I'm pretty cool and keep me as a pet."
- 21) "I hate staying inside my burrow during the day, it's too dark."
- 22) "I'm heavier than most other bugs. I can weigh up to 35 grams. That's as much as a deck of playing cards."
- 23) "Even if I look scary to some people, I promise I'm completely harmless."
- 24) "I feast on insects and small animals."
- 25) "My burrow basically has air conditioning. It keeps me cool during hot days and warm when it's chilly."

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

- 26) Giant burrowing cockroaches can live up to 10 years.
- 27) Giant burrowing cockroaches are much more interesting than regular ones.
- 28) The diet of giant burrowing cockroaches primarily consists of dry leaves, wood, and other plant material.
- 29) It's amazing how long giant burrowing cockroaches can live, up to 10 years!
- 30) Giant burrowing cockroaches can not fly.
- 31) I feel bad for the giant burrowing cockroaches that have to live underground all the time.
- 32) Some people keep giant burrowing cockroaches as pets.
- 33) Giant burrowing cockroaches live in the soil of Australia's tropical rainforests.
- 34) It is weird that some people keep giant burrowing cockroaches as pets.
- 35) These cockroaches are not gross, despite what many people say.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 36) Giant burrowing cockroaches can live up to 10 years.
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- 43) Giant burrowing cockroaches have a venom that is dangerous to humans.



44) Some people keep giant burrowing cockroaches as pets.

45) Giant burrowing cockroaches live in Australia.

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

46) They won't bite or sting, so they're safe to be around.

A. would not

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47) Giant burrowing cockroaches can make a hissing sound, but they're not dangerous.

A. they are

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50) They're great at recycling dead plants in the environment.

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Giant Burrowing Cockroach

Name: _____

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 31. _____ | 56. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 32. _____ | 57. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 33. _____ | |
| 9. _____ | 34. _____ | |
| 10. _____ | 35. _____ | |
| 11. _____ | 36. _____ | |
| 12. _____ | 37. _____ | |
| 13. _____ | 38. _____ | |
| 14. _____ | 39. _____ | |
| 15. _____ | 40. _____ | |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ | |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ | |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ | |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ | |
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- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| 2. <u>C</u> | 27. <u>opinion</u> | 52. <u>interrogative</u> |
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| 10. <u>A</u> | 35. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 11. <u>true</u> | 36. <u>true</u> | |
| 12. <u>true</u> | 37. <u>false</u> | |
| 13. <u>true</u> | 38. <u>true</u> | |
| 14. <u>true</u> | 39. <u>false</u> | |
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| 18. <u>false</u> | 43. <u>false</u> | |
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