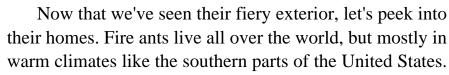
Imagine a tiny creature, dressed in a fiery red armor, no bigger than a grain of rice, meet the fire ant! These fascinating little critters have a reddish-brown color, almost like a tiny spark of fire. They are known for their distinctive mound-shaped nests, which they build using soil. And they've got a sting that's as fiery as their color, which is how they got their name.





They build large colonies in soil, with mounds that can be up to 18 inches high. Inside these mounds, they make a network of tunnels and chambers where they live and raise their young.

From their fiery houses, these little warriors venture out in search of food. They are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and other small creatures. Their diet includes seeds, fruits, insects, and even small animals. In fact, they are known to attack in groups to take down larger prey.



Fire ants are not just interesting, they're also important players in the ecosystem. They help control pests by eating other insects and small animals. However, they can also be a nuisance to humans, as their stings are painful and can cause allergic reactions. So next time you see a mound in the ground, remember the fiery little warriors beneath, and keep a respectful distance.



### Solve each problem.

### Use the article to answer the question.

1) What choice is a color that fire ants may be?

A. yellow B. green C. blue D. brown

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A. by eating other insects and small B. by building walls to keep pests out animals

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A. No B. Only in some people C. Yes D. Only in animals

**6)** What do fire ants use to build their nests?

B. soil A. leaves C. twigs D. rocks

7) Where do fire ants live mostly?

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of the United States

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"Plants and small creatures, we consume them all, we are true omnivores."



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- **32)** Fire ants build their homes in soil, forming mounds.
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- 35) Fire ant colonies can be found in warm climates, like southern parts of the United States.
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- **38)** Fire ants may eat fruits and seeds.
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- 44) Fire ants do not have stingers and defend by biting.



- **45**) Fire ants are predators and only eat other insects.
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- **48**) There's a special fly that helps control fire ant populations by laying eggs inside them.
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- **59**) The life cycle of fire ants starts with the queen laying eggs.
- **60)** Where do fire ants build their homes?
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- 65) Fire ants build their nests in mounds of soil outdoors or in decayed logs and around trees and stumps. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about fire ants?
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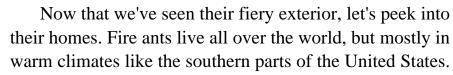
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- **68)** When a fire ant mound is disturbed, the ants get aggressive and attack to defend their colony. Based on this statement, what conclusion can be drawn about fire ants?
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	Fire Ants		Name:
1.	26.	51.	
2.	27.		
3.	 28.		
4.	 29.	54.	
5.	 30.	55.	
6.	 31.	56.	
7.	 32.	57.	
8.	 33.	58.	
9.	 34.	59.	
10.	 35.	60.	
11.	 36.	61.	
12.	 37.	62.	
13.	 38.	63.	
14.	 39.	64.	
15.	 40.	65.	
16.	 41.	66.	
17.	 42.	67.	
18.	 43.	68.	
19.	 44	69.	
20.	 45.		
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22.	 47.		
23.	 48.		
24.	 49.		

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Reading

25.

false

 $\mathbf{D}$ 

50.

**Answer Key** 

Name:



#### Solve each problem.

Use	the	article	to	answer	the	question.
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A. yellow B. green D. brown

C.

2) How do fire ants help control pests? (paragraph 4)

A. by eating other insects and small В. animals

C. D.

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C. D.

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C. Yes D.

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C. D.

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