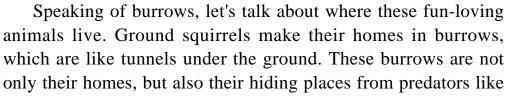


"Zip, zap, zoom!" Meet the ground squirrel, a feisty little creature that loves to dart around in the grasslands and forests. These cute critters are covered in fur that comes in shades of brown, grey, and sometimes black, which helps them blend into their surroundings. They are usually about 9 to 11 inches long, which is about the size of a big ruler, and they have bushy tails that add another 5 to 9 inches to their length. Ground squirrels have strong legs that are just perfect for digging burrows and running fast when they need to.





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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?
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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).

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Dooding			1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
Reading	www.CommonCoreSheets.com	Page 2 of 5	11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0

Name:

- - 17) "My fur changes color to green in the summer, to blend with the grass."
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 - **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.
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- 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.
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- **26)** Ground squirrels store food in their burrows to eat during hibernation in winter
- **27**) Ground squirrels eat a combination of plants and animals.
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- 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.
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- **32)** Ground squirrels are omnivores.
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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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- **41**) When <u>it's</u> winter, ground squirrels hibernate.
 - A. it is B. it has C. it was D. it were



Ground Squirrel

Name:

42) Ground squirrels aren't just one color.

A. is not

B. were not

C. am not

D. are not

43) Ground squirrels <u>can't</u> fly, but they're good climbers.

A. cannot

B. c

C. will not

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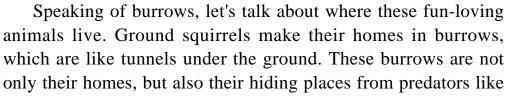
	Ground Squirrel	Name:
1.	26.	
2.	27.	
3.	28.	
4.	29.	
5.	30.	
6.	31.	
7.	32.	
8.	33.	
9.	34.	
10.	35.	
11.	36.	
12.	37.	
13.	38.	
14.	39.	
15.	40.	
16.	41.	
17.	42.	
18.	43.	
19.	44	
20.	45.	
21.	46.	
22.	47.	
23.	48.	

24.

50.



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Answer Key

Name:

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1.	A	26.	fact
2.	D	27.	fact
3.	C	28.	opinion
4.	<u>A</u>	29.	opinion
5.	<u>A</u>	30.	true
6.	<u> </u>	31.	false
7.	D	32.	true
8.	В	33.	false
9.	false	34.	true
10.	true	35.	false
11.	false	36.	false
12.	false	37.	false
13.	true	38.	true
14.	false	39.	true
15.	true	40.	В
16.	true	41.	A
17.	false	42.	D
18.	false	43.	A
19.	true	44.	C
20.	fact	45.	declarative
21.	opinion	46.	interrogative
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