

Name: _____

Roly-Poly Pill Bugs

by Cynthia Sherwood



Did you know that pill bugs have something in common with kangaroos? After her eggs hatch, the mother pill bug carries her young in a pouch under her belly. The little pill bugs stay there until they are big enough to be on their own.

Pill bugs also have something in common

and their skin do too. A pill bug molts down.

Some people call them
spiders or beetles
that just about
If you ever pick one up
nickname is



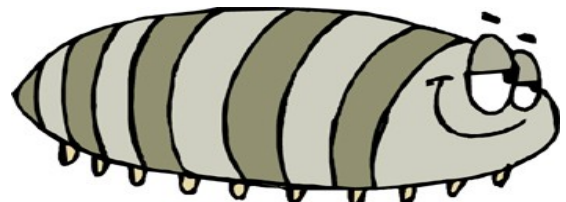
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into a tight little ball to protect itself. This pill bug is scared of you, not the other way around!

These little gray or brown bugs can be found almost everywhere in the United States except the desert. That is because they need to stay moist. But they can live in dry places like California thanks to lawn sprinklers. One of their favorite hang-outs is under damp flower pots.

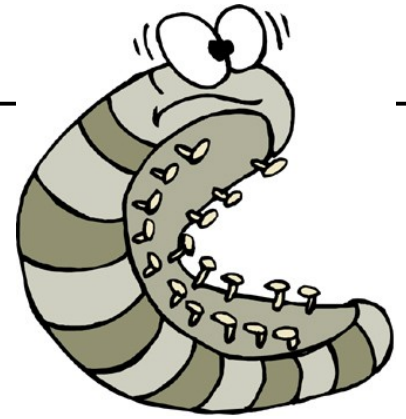
Pill bugs are a little like owls, too. Pill bugs are nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night. That is when they most like to wander around and look for food. And just like earthworms, pill bugs help break down plants in the soil. Pill bugs aren't just nice bugs. They are also interesting ones!



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1. Why are pill bugs nicknamed "roly-poly"?

2. Where would you be least likely to find a pill bug?

- a. under a large rock near a pond
- b. under a log near a downspout
- c. in a vegetable garden
- d. hiding in the roots of a cactus

3. How is c



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4. What does the word "molting" mean?

- a. active at night
- b. shedding its skin
- c. crawling in a damp place
- d. crawling like a snake

5. How are pill bugs and earthworms alike?

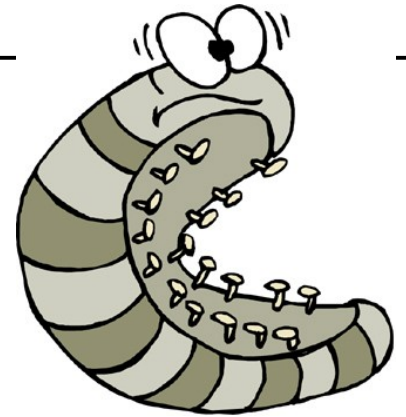
6. Which statement from the article is an opinion?

- a. This bug is scared of you, not the other way around.
- b. A pill bug molts about five times until it is full-grown.
- c. Pill bugs aren't just nice bugs; they are interesting ones.
- d. One of their favorite hang-outs is under damp flower pots.

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1. Why are pill bugs nicknamed roly-poly?

Pill bugs are nicknamed roly-poly because they can roll up in tight balls to protect themselves.

2. Where would you be least likely to find a pill bug? **d**

a. under a large rock near a pond

b. under a log near a downspout

c. in a vegetable garden

d. **hiding in the roots of a cactus**

3. How is c

**Like a
her b**



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4. What does the word "molting" mean? **b**

a. active at night

b. **shedding its skin**

c. crawling in a damp place

d. crawling like a snake

5. How are pill bugs and earthworms alike?

Earthworms and pill bugs both break down plants in the soil.

6. Which statement from the article is an opinion? **c**

a. This bug is scared of you, not the other way around.

b. A pill bug molts about five times until it is full-grown.

c. **Pill bugs aren't just nice bugs; they are interesting ones.**

d. One of their favorite hang-outs is under damp flower pots.