Name:

Roly-Poly Pill Bugs

by Cynthia Sherwood



Some people are afraid of bugs such as spiders or beetles. But there is one bug that just about everybody likes—pill bugs. If you

Pill bugs also have something in common with snakes. Just as snakes shed their skin when it gets too small, pill bugs do too.

This is called "molting." A pill bug molts about five times until it is full-grown.

Pill bugs are a little like owls, too. Pill

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they are then they nd look orms, pill in the

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.

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.

soil. Pill bugs aren't just nice bugs. They are also interesting ones!









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

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

3. How is



- 4. What does the word "molting" mean?
 - a. active at night
 - c. crawling in a damp place
- **b.** shedding its skin
- 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





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a. One of their favorite nang-outs is under damp flower pots.

5.

6.