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.

Now that we've seen their fiery exterior, let's peek into their homes. Fire ants live all over the world, but mostly in warm climates like the southern parts of the United States.



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. blue C. green D. brown

2) How do fire ants help control pests?

A. by scaring away pests

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

A. rocks
B. twigs
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7) Where do fire ants live mostly?

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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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- **45**) Fire ants are predators and only eat other insects.
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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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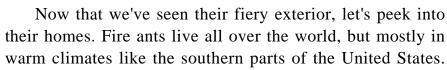
	Fi	re Ants	Name:	
			1,000	
1.	 26.	51.		
2.	 27.	52.		
3.	 28.	53.		
4.	 29.	54.		
5.	 30.	55.		
6.	 31.	56		
7.	 32.	57.		
8.	 33.	58.		
9.	 34.	59		
10.	 35.	60.		
11.	 36.	61.		
12.	 37.	62.		
13.	 38.	63.		
14.	 39.	64.		
15.	 40.	65.		
16.	 41.	66		
17.	 42.	67		
18.	 43.	68.		
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Reading

24.

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Reading

24.

25.

true

false

**Answer Key** 

Name:

49.

50.

A

 $\mathbf{D}$ 



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Use the artic	cle to ans	wer the	question.
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1) What choice is a color that fire ants may be? (paragraph 1)

A. yellow

C. D. brown

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A. B. by eating other insects and small

animals

C. D.

3) How do fire ants defend themselves? (paragraph 1)

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C. D.

4) What do fire ants eat? (paragraph 3)

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C. both plants and other small creatures D.

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C. D.

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