



Let's dive into the world of tiny builders known as carpenter ants! These little creatures are one of the largest types of ants you can find, measuring from 1/4 inch to 1 inch in size. Recognizable by their dark color, they might be black, brown, or even reddish. Their name comes from their knack for carving out their homes in wood, just like human carpenters!

Speaking of homes, you might be wondering where you can find these busy ants. Carpenter ants don't limit themselves to forests; they can also be found in homes, particularly where there is moist, decaying wood. Unlike termites, they don't eat the wood, but they hollow it out to create their nests. So, if you see some fine sawdust around your house, our little friends might be around!

Now, if they're not munching on wood, what do carpenter ants eat? They enjoy a tasty menu of plant and fruit juices, other insects, and anything sweet they can find in your home. Their love for sweets can sometimes lead them into your kitchen, becoming a bit of a nuisance. But don't worry, they're not harmful to humans, they're just looking for a tasty treat!



Before we say goodbye, let's talk about their life cycle. The queen ant lays eggs that hatch into larvae, which are taken care of by worker ants. These larvae grow into adults and the cycle continues, with some ants living for several years! So, carpenter ants aren't just tiny builders, but they're also part of a fascinating world of insects that are crucial for our ecosystem.





**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) Why are they called carpenter ants?
  - A. Because they eat wood
  - B. Because they build with tools
  - C. Because they are as big as carpenters
  - D. Because they carve out their homes in wood
- 2) Where would likely find carpenter ants in the wild?
  - A. At the beach, usually in the sand
  - B. Underground in caves
  - C. In dry, sandy deserts
  - D. In forests
- 3) What do carpenter ants do with the wood?
  - A. They carry it away
  - B. They burn it
  - C. They eat it
  - D. They hollow it out to create their nests
- 4) What color can carpenter ants be?
  - A. Brown
  - B. Green
  - C. White
  - D. Yellow
- 5) What is the size range of carpenter ants?
  - A. About 3 inches
  - B. About 6 inches or more
  - C. About a foot
  - D. About an inch or less
- 6) What type of wood do carpenter ants prefer for their nests?
  - A. Any type of wood
  - B. Dry, solid wood
  - C. Moist, decaying wood
  - D. Freshly cut wood
- 7) What indicates the presence of carpenter ants?
  - A. Seeing large ant hills
  - B. Hearing a loud buzzing sound
  - C. Finding remnants of wood piles
  - D. Seeing fine sawdust around your house
- 8) Why do carpenter ants sometimes venture into your kitchen?
  - A. They are lost
  - B. They are attracted to light
  - C. They are looking for a tasty treat
  - D. They are looking for a place to nest
- 9) What do carpenter ants eat?
  - A. Seeds and nuts
  - B. Wood and tree bark
  - C. soil and dirt
  - D. Plant and fruit juices, other insects, and sweet things
- 10) What takes care of the larvae?
  - A. Male ants
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  - C. Larvae take care of themselves
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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).**



- 11) "If you see fine sawdust around, it might be the trace of the nesting space I carved out."
- 12) "Even in the ant world, the queen rules. The queen lays the eggs and we workers take care of them."
- 13) "The queen doesn't lay eggs, we hatch from plants."
- 14) "I can make my home in forests and even in your home if I find moist, decaying wood."
- 15) "I usually have a dark color. It can be black, brown, or even reddish."
- 16) "My diet is diverse, from sweet things to other smaller insects."
- 17) "Our lives are short, only about a few months long."
- 18) "I'm not your average ant, I'm one of the largest you can ever find measuring up to 1 inch."
- 19) "Despite living in wood, I don't eat it. I just hollow it out to create my nests."
- 20) "We got our name because we look just like human carpenters."
- 21) "Our favorite snack is to munch on the wood we carve for our nests."
- 22) "Do you know how I got my name? It's because I build my homes out of wood, just like human carpenters."
- 23) "I love sipping on plant and fruit juices. You can say it's my favorite drink."
- 24) "Decaying wood is too damp for us; we prefer dry wood."
- 25) "We hate being in damp places, dry places are the best!"
- 26) "Did you know? Some of us can live for several years!"

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 27) In order to make their homes, carpenter ants carve in to wood instead of eating it.
- 28) Carpenter ants searching for sweets in the kitchen is more annoying than interesting.
- 29) Carpenter ants are one of the biggest types of ants, measuring up to 1 inch in size.
- 30) It is interesting that carpenter ants, unlike termites, don't eat the wood they carve for their nests.
- 31) Carpenter ants build their nests in wood, often in dead or decaying trees.
- 32) It's neat that carpenter ants love sweet things just like us.
- 33) Carpenter ants eat plant and fruit juices, other insects, and anything sweet they can find.
- 34) Carpenter ants eat both plants and other insects, like aphids and small bugs.
- 35) Carpenter ants are more interesting than other ants because they can hollow out wood.
- 36) The most interesting part of the carpenter ant life cycle is when the queen ant lays eggs.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 37) Carpenter ants may live for several years.
- 38) Carpenter ants are named so because they use tools like a carpenter.
- 39) Carpenter ants can be found in homes, particularly where there is moist, decaying wood.
- 40) Carpenter ants are the smallest ants.
- 41) Carpenter ants can be up to 1 inch long.
- 42) Carpenter ants can only be found in forests.

- 43) Carpenter ants are dangerous to humans.
- 44) Carpenter ants eat wood to create their nests.
- 45) The presence of fine sawdust in the house may indicate the presence of carpenter ants.
- 46) Carpenter ants like to eat plant and fruit juices.

**Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.**

- 47) They've got strong jaws to catch and crush their prey.  
A. they had  
B. they have  
C. they be  
D. they are
- 48) If they decide to nest in our homes, it's not good for the buildings.  
A. it is  
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C. it has  
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- 49) Carpenter ants don't actually eat the wood they live in.  
A. does not  
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C. did not  
D. do not
- 50) Carpenter ants can't eat wood like termites do.  
A. cannot  
B. can  
C. have not  
D. will not
- 51) They're able to build their nests in dead or decaying trees.  
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 53) Carpenter ants can live for several years, with the queen being the longest-lived member of the colony.
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- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 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. _____ |           |
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- |                  |                    |                          |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u>      | 26. <u>true</u>    | 51. <u>C</u>             |
| 2. <u>D</u>      | 27. <u>fact</u>    | 52. <u>declarative</u>   |
| 3. <u>D</u>      | 28. <u>opinion</u> | 53. <u>exclamatory</u>   |
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| 11. <u>true</u>  | 36. <u>opinion</u> |                          |
| 12. <u>true</u>  | 37. <u>true</u>    |                          |
| 13. <u>false</u> | 38. <u>false</u>   |                          |
| 14. <u>true</u>  | 39. <u>true</u>    |                          |
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| 18. <u>true</u>  | 43. <u>false</u>   |                          |
| 19. <u>true</u>  | 44. <u>false</u>   |                          |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u>    |                          |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>true</u>    |                          |
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| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>D</u>       |                          |
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