



Imagine an animal that looks like it's from another planet; that's the star-nosed mole for you! This creature has 22 little tentacles at the end of its nose that look like a star, hence the name, star-nosed mole. Covered in thick, black fur, their bodies are cylindrical and they have large, paddle-like hands for digging. But wait till you hear about their super cool living habits and what's on their menu!

Remember the big hands I told you about? They help the mole live its life underground in wet, marshy areas in North America. These moles are super good at swimming, and can even find food underwater! Speaking of food, these creatures love to munch on small invertebrates, worms, and even small fish. You won't believe how quickly they can eat, it's almost like watching a magic trick!

Speaking of magic tricks, let's delve into the life cycle of these fascinating creatures. After a gestation period of about 45 days, the female star-nosed mole gives birth to a litter of 2 to 7 baby moles. These baby moles grow up fast and are ready to leave the nest within a month. Despite their somewhat scary look, star-nosed moles are harmless to humans and play an important role in the ecosystem.



Star-nosed moles are quite different from other moles, and not just because of their funky noses!. Unlike other moles, they are super quick, and their star-nose helps them to find and eat food faster than the blink of an eye. Their noses are also super sensitive, and they use them to 'see' their surroundings. So next time you think of moles, remember the star-nosed mole, a fascinating creature that's as interesting as it is unusual!





**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) What do star-nosed moles use their hands for?
  - A. Swimming
  - B. Digging
  - C. Climbing trees
  - D. Hitting enemies
  
- 2) Is the star-nosed mole dangerous to humans?
  - A. It can be dangerous if provoked.
  - B. Yes, it is dangerous to humans.
  - C. Only the star-nose part is harmful to touch.
  - D. No, the star-nosed mole is harmless to humans.
  
- 3) What does a star-nosed mole eat?
  - A. Small invertebrates, worms, and small fish
  - B. Large animals like gazelles and zebras
  - C. Plants, leaves and fruits
  - D. Seeds and grains like a mouse
  
- 4) How long does it take for the babies to leave the nest?
  - A. After 1 year.
  - B. After 6 months.
  - C. They never leave the nest.
  - D. Within a month.
  
- 5) How many babies does a female star-nosed mole usually have?
  - A. 2 to 7
  - B. 8 to 12
  - C. more than 15
  - D. 1
  
- 6) Can star-nosed moles swim?
  - A. No, they cannot swim
  - B. Yes, they are good at swimming
  - C. They can not swim, they immediately sink
  - D. They can only float
  
- 7) How long is the gestation period of a star-nosed mole?
  - A. 1 year, like a baby elephant
  - B. 2 weeks, like a baby mouse
  - C. 9 months, like a human baby
  - D. About 45 days
  
- 8) Are star-nosed moles slow or fast?
  - A. Fast
  - B. Slow
  - C. Neither fast nor slow
  - D. It depends on the mole
  
- 9) What color is the star-nosed mole's fur?
  - A. gray
  - B. white
  - C. brown
  - D. black
  
- 10) Where does the star-nosed mole live?
  - A. in caves
  - B. in marshy areas
  - C. in tree nests
  - D. on top of mountains

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "I live mostly in wet and marshy areas in North America.!"



- 12) "Our babies stay with us for about 2 years before venturing on their own."
- 13) "Baby moles are born fully grown and independent."
- 14) "Swimming just isn't my thing, I usually stay on land."
- 15) "I have 22 little tentacles at the end of my nose that look like a star."
- 16) "My hands are big and paddle-like, just perfect for digging underground."
- 17) "I prefer living in dry, desert-like conditions."
- 18) "Small fish and worms? No, thank you. I only eat fruits."
- 19) "We're actually quite dangerous to humans if provoked."
- 20) "You won't believe how fast I eat. It's almost like a magic trick. Poof, the food is gone!"
- 21) "I'm a fan of a slow, leisurely meal."
- 22) "I love munching on small invertebrates, worms and even small fish. Yum!"
- 23) "I'm a fruitarian. I only eat fruits."

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

- 24) The gestation period of a star-nosed mole is about 45 days.
- 25) It is fascinating to watch star-nosed moles swim and find food underwater.
- 26) Star-nosed moles eat small invertebrates, worms, and small fish.
- 27) Star-nosed moles are look disgusting.
- 28) The star-nosed mole has a nose that has 22 little tentacles.
- 29) The fact that baby star-nosed moles are ready to leave the nest within a month of being born is amazing.
- 30) Star-nosed moles can leave the nest within a month from birth.
- 31) Star-nosed moles live in wet, marshy areas of North America.
- 32) Star-nosed moles, with their tentacled snouts, are the most unique looking moles.
- 33) It is really amazing how quickly star-nosed moles can eat their food.

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

- 34) Star-nosed moles give birth to a litter of up to 7 babies.
- 35) Star-nosed moles are dangerous to humans.
- 36) Star-nosed moles can eat food faster than the blink of an eye.
- 37) Star-nosed moles eat only small fish.
- 38) Star-nosed moles live in wet, marshy areas.
- 39) Female star-nosed moles birth at least 10 babies at a time.
- 40) Star-nosed moles live in dry desert areas.
- 41) Star-nosed moles have 22 little tentacles on their tails.
- 42) Star-nosed moles are harmless to humans.
- 43) Star-nosed moles have tentacles at the end of their nose.

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





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- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
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- 39. \_\_\_\_\_
- 40. \_\_\_\_\_
- 41. \_\_\_\_\_
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- 43. \_\_\_\_\_
- 44. \_\_\_\_\_
- 45. \_\_\_\_\_
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- 47. \_\_\_\_\_
- 48. \_\_\_\_\_
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- 50. \_\_\_\_\_

- 51. \_\_\_\_\_
- 52. \_\_\_\_\_
- 53. \_\_\_\_\_
- 54. \_\_\_\_\_



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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) "I live mostly in wet and marshy areas in North America.!"



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- |                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>        | 26. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          | 51. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 2. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>        | 27. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       | 52. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 3. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>        | 28. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          | 53. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 4. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>        | 29. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       | 54. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 5. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>        | 30. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          |   |
| 6. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>        | 31. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>          |   |
| 7. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>        | 32. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |   |
| 8. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>        | 33. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u>       |   |
| 9. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>        | 34. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |   |
| 10. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>       | 35. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |   |
| 11. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 36. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |   |
| 12. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 37. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |   |
| 13. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 38. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |   |
| 14. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 39. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |   |
| 15. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 40. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |   |
| 16. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 41. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>         |   |
| 17. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 42. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |   |
| 18. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 43. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>          |   |
| 19. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 44. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>             |   |
| 20. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 45. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |   |
| 21. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 46. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |   |
| 22. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 47. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |   |
| 23. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 48. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |   |
| 24. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 49. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |   |
| 25. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 50. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |   |



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do star-nosed moles use their hands for? (paragraph 1)  
A. Swimming  
B. Digging  
C.  
D.
- 2) Is the star-nosed mole dangerous to humans? (paragraph 3)  
A. It can be dangerous if provoked.  
B.  
C.  
D. No, the star-nosed mole is harmless to humans.
- 3) What does a star-nosed mole eat? (paragraph 2)  
A. Small invertebrates, worms, and small fish  
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C.  
D.
- 4) How long does it take for the babies to leave the nest? (paragraph 3)  
A. After 1 year.  
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- 8) Are star-nosed moles slow or fast? (paragraph 4)  
A. Fast  
B. Slow  
C.  
D.
- 9) What color is the star-nosed mole's fur? (paragraph 1)  
A.  
B. white  
C.  
D. black
- 10) Where does the star-nosed mole live? (paragraph 2)  
A.  
B. in marshy areas  
C.  
D.

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).



11) "I live mostly in wet and marshy areas in North America.!" (paragraph 2)

12) "Our babies stay with us for about 2 years before venturing on their own." (paragraph 3)