



Imagine a creature with eight hairy legs and a body as big as your hand, that's our friend the tarantula! These spiders are known for their large size, with some species' body reaching up to 4.75 inches and leg span up to 11 inches, making them one of the largest spiders in the world. They have a hard outer body called an exoskeleton, and they molt, or shed their skin as they grow. Their bodies are covered in tiny hairs that they use to sense vibrations in the air or on the ground.

Speaking of these gentle giants, did you know they have quite the appetite? Tarantulas eat a variety of foods, from insects like beetles and grasshoppers to small birds and mice. They don't eat like we do, though. They inject their prey with venom to paralyze it, and then they liquefy their food to drink it up! This might sound a bit creepy, but it's how they survive in the wild.

So, where can you find these fascinating creatures in the wild? Tarantulas live in a variety of habitats around the world, from deserts to jungles and forests. They make their homes in burrows underground, which they line with silk to keep out predators and weather. While they might seem scary, tarantulas are actually quite shy and would rather run away than fight.



Now you might be wondering, what makes tarantulas different from other spiders? For starters, unlike most spiders, tarantulas don't use webs to catch their prey. They also live much longer than most spiders, with some females living up to 25 years! So next time you see a spider, remember, it could be a tarantula, the gentle giant of the spider world, using its hairy legs to sense the world around it.



**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) How big can a tarantula's body get?
  - A. Around 2 inches
  - B. over 4 inches
  - C. Over 6 inches
  - D. Not more than 3 inches
- 2) Why are tarantulas different from other spiders?
  - A. They live much longer than most spiders
  - B. They are always venomous
  - C. They have more legs
  - D. They are vegetarian
- 3) What do adult tarantulas eat?
  - A. Human skin, blood and hair
  - B. Insects, small birds and mice
  - C. Adult tarantulas do not eat
  - D. Plants, leaves and twigs
- 4) What is the lifespan of female tarantulas?
  - A. Up to 25 years
  - B. Around 10 years
  - C. Not more than 15 years
  - D. Only 5 years
- 5) How do tarantulas react when they encounter danger?
  - A. They release a bad smell
  - B. They fight back aggressively
  - C. They try and run away
  - D. They play dead
- 6) What does a tarantula use to sense vibrations?
  - A. Their eight legs
  - B. Tiny hairs on their bodies
  - C. Their antennae
  - D. Their eyes
- 7) Where would you NOT find tarantulas in the wild?
  - A. jungles
  - B. dry forests
  - C. Cities
  - D. deserts
- 8) Where do tarantulas make their homes?
  - A. On leaves
  - B. In burrows underground
  - C. In large webs they build
  - D. In tree trunks
- 9) Do tarantulas use webs to catch their prey?
  - A. Yes, they use complex webs to catch their prey
  - B. Yes, they use giant webs to catch their prey
  - C. No, they don't use webs to catch their prey
  - D. Yes, they use sticky webs to catch their prey
- 10) How do tarantulas protect their homes?
  - A. They cover it with leaves
  - B. They line their burrows with silk
  - C. They hide it with rocks
  - D. They build a door of dirt

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

- 11) "My lifespan is as short as other spiders, around a year or so."



- 12) "We tarantulas have a hard outer body called an exoskeleton. As we get older and grow larger we shed our skin!"
- 13) "My way to eat is a lot different than yours. Instead of chewing my food, I inject my prey with venom to paralyze it, and then I liquefy their insides and drink it up."
- 14) "To detect movements and vibrations, I rely on the tiny hairs that cover my body."
- 15) "My species are known for our large size, with some of us even have a leg span as wide as an adult human's face!"
- 16) "I've got soft skin."
- 17) "Deserts are too hot for me."
- 18) "I live much longer than most spiders, some of us females living up to 25 years!"
- 19) "I always pick a fight when I see a threat."
- 20) "My size is as small as a thumb."
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- 22) "Mice are too big for me to eat, I just eat insects."
- 23) "I eat insects like beetles and grasshoppers, and sometimes even small birds and mice."
- 24) "I make my home underground in burrows. I line the burrow with silk to keep out unwanted guests and the weather."
- 25) "I love to spin webs to catch my prey."
- 26) "I'd prefer not to fight. If I can, I'd rather run away. "
- 27) "You can find me in a variety of habitats around the world, from deserts to jungles and forests."
- 28) "My home is in the open fields."
- 29) "I don't have any hairs on my body."

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

- 30) Tarantulas can be found in various habitats around the world, such as deserts, jungles, and forests.
- 31) It's amazing how tarantulas can live in so many different habitats around the world.
- 32) Tarantulas bodies have tiny hairs to sense vibrations in the air or on the ground.
- 33) It's pretty cool that tarantulas are so big and hairy!
- 34) The body of a tarantula can reach up to almost 5 inches.
- 35) It's amazing how tarantulas live for such a long time even when they are so big.
- 36) Some Tarantulas, especially females, have a life span of up to 25 years.
- 37) Tarantulas have an exoskeleton, a hard outer body which they molt as they grow.
- 38) Tarantulas have the most interesting way of eating.
- 39) Tarantulas are not scary, they are just misunderstood.

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

- 40) Tarantulas do not make webs to catch food.





- 65) Wow, tarantulas can have a leg span of up to 11 inches!
- 66) Remember to never disturb a tarantula's burrow.



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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
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| 8. _____  | 33. _____ | 58. _____ |
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| 10. _____ | 35. _____ | 60. _____ |
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1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- |                                 |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 26. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 51. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 2. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 27. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 52. <u>    <b>D</b>    </u>             |
| 3. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 28. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 53. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>             |
| 4. <u>    <b>A</b>    </u>      | 29. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 54. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>             |
| 5. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 30. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 55. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 6. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 31. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 56. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 7. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 32. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 57. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 8. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>      | 33. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 58. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 9. <u>    <b>C</b>    </u>      | 34. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 59. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 10. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>     | 35. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 60. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
| 11. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 36. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 61. <u>    <b>declarative</b>    </u>   |
| 12. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 37. <u>    <b>fact</b>    </u>    | 62. <u>    <b>interrogative</b>    </u> |
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| 14. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 39. <u>    <b>opinion</b>    </u> | 64. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 15. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>  | 40. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    | 65. <u>    <b>exclamatory</b>    </u>   |
| 16. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 41. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u>   | 66. <u>    <b>imperative</b>    </u>    |
| 17. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 42. <u>    <b>true</b>    </u>    |   |
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| 25. <u>    <b>false</b>    </u> | 50. <u>    <b>B</b>    </u>       |   |



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- 7) Where would you NOT find tarantulas in the wild? (paragraph 3)
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