



STAR Student Test Questions

Big Beetle Buzz

- 1** From the information provided in the selection, the reader can conclude that ox beetles —
- A** prefer to live in rocky habitats
 - B** make a loud buzzing sound when they are active
 - C** are uncommonly large in size compared to other beetles
 - D** hide in drains among debris
-
- 2** The author titled this internet article “Big Beetle Buzz” because —
- A** the article describes the way ox beetles make sounds
 - B** the human ear is sensitive to buzzing sounds made by beetles
 - C** the described beetle is large in size
 - D** ox beetles make an unusually loud, buzzing noise
-
- 3** The photographs are included to support which idea?
- A** Ox beetles are commonly found in the United States.
 - B** Ox beetles are sometimes called elephant beetles.
 - C** Ox beetles have an unusual appearance.
 - D** Ox beetles are unable to fly.

4 Read this sentence from paragraph 1.

Believe it or not, an adult ox beetle is as big as a human ear?

The author uses this sentence to —

- A** help the reader visualize the size of ox beetles
- B** explain the ox beetle’s special features
- C** offer a reason why ox beetles are so large
- D** compare ox beetles to other beetles

5 The picture before paragraph 2 is included in the article to —

- A** show how an ox beetles moves
- B** provide information about what ox beetles eat
- C** explain the difference between female and male ox beetles
- D** show why ox beetles are sometimes called elephant or Hercules beetles

- 6** What is the best summary of the selection?
- A** Ox beetles are large, unusual in appearance, and commonly found in the United States. Although startling in appearance, their contribution to the environment makes them beneficial. They can also make an unusual and exciting pet.
 - B** Ox beetles are known as elephant beetles or Hercules beetles. Their head is covered with horns. Males use their horns to fight or compete. They live between four to six months and are helpful to the environment.
 - C** Ox beetles can be as large as a human ear. Commonly found in the United States, they contribute in many ways to the environment in which they live. They can also live in households because they make good pets.
 - D** Ox beetles are interesting. These animals are unusual in size and shape. Unlike most beetles, ox beetles have projections, or horns on their head. Males use their horns to fight each other for females. The most surprising aspect about ox beetles is that despite their horns, they are harmless.

Big Beetle Buzz!

1
Topic

What's the biggest beetle you've ever seen? Believe it or not, an adult ox beetle is as big as a human ear! That is a big bug with a big buzz. The ox beetle is the largest, most common beetle found in the United States. But don't be fooled. Just because it is big and common doesn't mean it is dangerous or easy to find. Read to find out more information about ox beetles.

1, 2

Central
Idea



3, 5

2

Ox beetles are sometimes called elephant beetles because of their size. On average, an ox beetle will grow to be about two and one-half inches in length. Ox beetles may be brown, yellowish, or greenish-gray with brown to black spots. Some may be a rare reddish-brown. Its hard exoskeleton gives the appearance of a knight in fighting armor. Another common name due to its size is the Hercules beetle.

5



3

3

The most exciting part of the ox beetle is its head. Even though ox beetles come in major and minor varieties, all

ox beetles have three projections located on the head. The central horn is the longest and sticks out in an upward curl. Minor varieties of the ox beetles have horns that stand out, but they are small. Males use their horns to fight each other for females. Female ox beetles have only small raised areas in place of horns.

4 The ox beetle lives in the Southern United States ranging from Florida to Arizona. In fact, since the ox beetle is so common to the Southwestern United States, it is often mistakenly called the Southwest ox beetle. Actually, the ox beetle has gone far beyond the Southern United States of America. It has traveled deep into the continent of South America. Their travel has been very helpful.

5 The ox beetle is classified as a recycler or decomposer. That means that these insects eat dead plants and animals. They eat and recycle waste that is already in nature. Most people don't realize that without the help of decomposers, people would be over their heads in dead matter. Learning the value of these insects helps people understand how the ecosystem is a balance of living and nonliving things.

6 Female ox beetles lay their eggs in decayed wood or sandy soil. They may crawl into potting soil mixes used by gardeners in home gardens and lawns. They will often add dried leaves to protect their eggs. The leaves help maintain the proper temperature for the eggs. The warmer the temperature, the faster the eggs hatch. The larvae, grubs that hatch from the eggs, are C-shaped. They feed on rotten wood or decayed roots and leaves.

7 An adult ox beetle can live between four to six months. They are most active in the summer months. In warm

Life of the
ox beetle

weather they dig deep holes in sandy soil and hide during the day. They may also crawl into potting soil mixes to hide. As an adult, they don't seem to require as much food. Mostly, ox beetles prefer to feed on apples and other types of fruit.

8

The most surprising aspect of the ox beetle is that it is harmless. Their mouthparts are for chewing, and they do not sting. For these reasons, they make excellent pets! Many people raise ox beetles from eggs to adults because they are so easy to care for in captivity. They are terrific to play with because they like to walk around. The worst thing that can be said about the ox beetle is that their appearance and size may startle you. Remember, if you see an ox beetle, don't kill it. Ox beetles can't hurt you, and they serve as a great recycler in the environment. They are the big bug buzz in many natural environments.

Information about ox beetles shows they are big and have an unusual appearance. Ox beetles do many things in the environment where they live. They even make excellent pets.

6



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