



Name _____

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Deer Cave, Malaysia

You probably wouldn't want to visit Deer Cave in Malaysia. The cave is massive—so massive that it can hold more people than the largest football stadium on Earth. However, millions of bats live inside. Each night as dusk falls, hundreds of thousands of bats from twelve different species fly out. They use echolocation to find and devour insects in the Malaysian rain forest. Each bat eats about one-third of an ounce of insects. Altogether, the bats eat about sixteen tons of insects every night! After the bugs are digested, the bats produce about five tons of fresh guano. That's the name for bat waste.

The guano falls to the cave floor. It is the largest pile of bat dung in the world. This dung supplies food to tens of millions of

cockroaches, flies, worms, centipedes, and millipedes. The dung is rich in nutrients. That's why Deer Cave has the biggest population of cockroaches on Earth. There are so many roaches that the cave floor looks like a moving river of roaches. For this reason alone, Deer Cave is not likely to become a tourist attraction any time soon. However, the roaches and other small creatures provide food for millions of spiders, scorpions, and snakes.

Check Your Understanding

1. From the context of the passage, which of the following means the same as "guano"?
 - a. dung
 - b. manure
 - c. waste
 - d. all of the above
2. What do bats eat?
 - a. insects
 - b. flowers
 - c. guano
 - d. snakes
3. Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
 - a. Bats eat one-third of an ounce of insects every night.
 - b. Bats produce guano.
 - c. Bats are interesting creatures.
 - d. Bats hunt at night.
4. What can you infer from the passage?
 - a. Bats have lived in Deer Cave for a long time.
 - b. Bats hatch from eggs.
 - c. People would be comfortable spending time in Deer Cave.
 - d. both a and c

