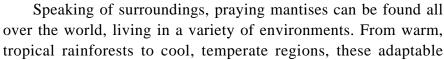
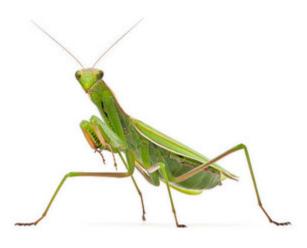


Imagine a creature that looks like it comes from an alien world, with a triangular head that turns 180 degrees and two big, bulging eyes. Well, there's no need to imagine, because such a creature exists right here on Earth - it's called a praying mantis! These fascinating insects are named so because of their prayer-like stance, with their two front legs folded as if praying. A praying mantis can be green or brown and can range in size from 0.5 to 6 inches, and it's a master of disguise, blending perfectly with its surroundings.





critters make their homes in trees, shrubs, and even in grassy meadows. They're most commonly seen in the spring and summer months, and if you're lucky enough, you might spot one in your own backyard! And do you know what's even cooler? Female mantises lay up to 200 eggs, which they encase in a protective foam that hardens into an egg case.

Now, let's talk about what happens when those eggs hatch. The baby mantises, called nymphs, look like miniature versions of their parents. As they grow, they shed their skin, a process called molting, until they become full-grown mantises. These insects are carnivores and eat a variety of insects, including flies and moths, and sometimes they even eat each other!



Lastly, let's not forget to mention the interesting relationship mantises have with other animals and humans. For some animals, mantises are a source of food, but for others, these stealthy hunters are a threat. Humans, on the other hand, appreciate mantises because they help control pest populations. So, next time you see a praying mantis, remember that it's not only an incredible insect, but also an important part of our ecosystem.

B. Mantising



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What is the process called when baby mantises shed their skin?

A. Skinning

C. Molting D. Shedding

2) Where would you most likely not find praying mantises making their homes?

A. Trees B. Shrubs

C. Meadows D. Beaches

3) What are baby mantises called?

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4) What is special about the head of a praying mantis?

A. It is able to detach its head.

B. It can survive even without its head.

C. It can turn its head 180 degrees. D. It grows a new head every 6 months.

5) What colors can a praying mantis be?

A. Purple or yellow. B. Black or white.

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6) How many eggs can a female praying mantis lay?

A. up to 500 B. up to 100

C. only one D. up to 200

7) Which best describes the diet of mantises?

A. insectivores

B. carnivores

C. omnivores

D. herbivores

8) What time of year are praying mantises most commonly seen?

A. All year round B. Fall and winter months

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D. Random times throughout the year

9) What is the purpose of the foam that covers the eggs?

A. Provides food for the nymphs B. Helps eggs hatch faster

C. Keeps eggs warm D. Protects the eggs

10) Why do humans appreciate mantises?

A. They help spread seeds B. They help clean rivers

C. They make good pets

D. They help control pest populations

11) Why are praying mantises named so?

A. because they have triangular heads B. because of their prayer-like stance

C. because they are great hunters

D. because they can turn their heads 180

degrees



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

- 12) "I'm vegetarian, I don't eat insects."
- 13) "I usually lay just one or two eggs."
- 14) "Whether it's green or brown, my color always matches where I live. This helps me stay safe from my predators."
- **15**) "We mainly eat plant-based food."
- **16**) "I can't turn my head."
- 17) "All animals see me as a source of food."
- 18) "You would usually spot me during the spring and summer months."
- 19) "As I grow, I have to shed my skin, a process called molting, kind of like how snakes do!"
- 20) "See my front legs? I fold them up when I'm at rest, so it looks like I'm praying."
- 21) "We remain the same size throughout our life."
- 22) "I look completely different from my parents when I'm younger."
- 23) "We mantises are disliked by most humans!"
- 24) "From hot jungles to cool grasslands, I can make any place my home."
- 25) "I'm only active during the winter months."
- **26)** "Sometimes, survival gets tough and I have to eat my fellow mantises."
- 27) "When my babies, or nymphs, come out from eggs, they look exactly like me, but a smaller version."
- 28) "When it's time to lay eggs, I can lay up to 200 at a time! I protect them in a special hard case."
- **29**) "We only live in cold, snowy areas."
- **30**) "I can twist my head all the way around to look at things behind me. Kind of like having eyes in the back of my head."
- 31) "There's nothing like a good meal of flies or moths. I'm a carnivore, you see."

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

- 32) When hatched, praying mantis nymphs look just like their parents but in a smaller form.
- 33) Seeing a praying mantis in your backyard could be the most exciting part of your day.
- **34)** Female praying mantises can lay almost 200 eggs.
- 35) The way a praying mantis blends with its environment is absolutely amazing.
- **36**) The praying mantis is an insect that has large, bulging eyes and a triangular head which can rotate 180 degrees.
- 37) It's astonishing that a female mantis can lay up to 200 eggs!
- **38)** Praying mantises are carnivores eating a variety of insects, even including their own species.
- 39) Praying mantises can be found in many different environments all around the globe.
- **40**) Praying mantises have the most interesting look among all insects.



41) Praying mantises are quite scary because of their ability to turn their heads 180 degrees.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **42)** Mantises are a threat to some animals.
- **43**) Praying mantises are only active in the winter months.
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- **45**) A praying mantis can turn its head 360 degrees.
- **46**) Baby mantises are called nymphs.
- **47**) Praying mantises are only green in color.
- **48)** Praying mantises are herbivores.
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- 50) The praying mantis get their name from their prayer-like stance.
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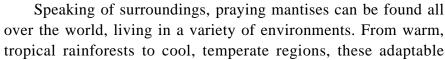
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- 54) What do some cultures consider praying mantises to be symbols of?
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	Praying Mantis	Name:
1.	26.	51.
2.	27.	52.
3.	28.	53.
4.	29.	54
5.	30.	55
6.	31.	56.
7.	32.	57.
8.	33.	58.
9.	34.	59.
10.	35.	60.
11.	36.	61
12.	37.	62.
13.	38.	63
14.	39.	
15.	40.	
16.	41.	
17.	42.	
18.	43.	
19.	44.	
20.	45.	
21.	46.	
22.	47.	
23.	48.	
24.	49.	
25.	50.	
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Answer Key

Name:

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Praying Mantis

Name: Answer Key

51. true52. exclamatory

53. **imperative**

54.

58.

interrogative

55. **exclamatory**

56. **declarative**

57. **interrogative**

declarative

59. **interrogative**

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62. **exclamatory**

63. **imperative**

 \mathbf{C} true 26. 1. \mathbf{D} true 2. 27. A true 3. 28. \mathbf{C} false 4. 29. \mathbf{C} true 30. 5. D true 6. 31. B fact 32. 7. \mathbf{C} opinion 8. 33. D fact 9. 34. D opinion 10. 35. B fact 11. 36. false opinion 12. 37. false fact 13. 38. fact true 14. 39. false opinion 15. 40. false opinion 16. 41. **false** true 17. 42. false true 18. 43. true true 19. 44. true false 20. 45. **false** true 21. 46. **false** false 22. 47. false false 23. 48.

24.

25.

true

false

49.

50.

false

true

Praying Mantis

Name:

Solve each problem.

Use	the	article	to	answer	the	question.
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C. Molting D.

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Β.

A. Trees B. Shrubs

C. D. Beaches

3) What are baby mantises called? (paragraph 3)

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C. D.

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C. D.

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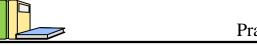
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Praying Mantis Name:

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 50
 42
 33
 25
 17