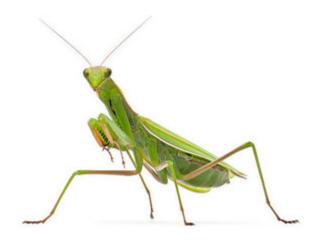


Imagine a creature that looks like it comes from an alien world, with a triangular head that turns 180 degrees and two big, bulging eyes. Well, there's no need to imagine, because such a creature exists right here on Earth - it's called a praying mantis! These fascinating insects are named so because 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.



Speaking of surroundings, praying mantises can be found all over the world, living in a variety of environments. From warm, tropical rainforests to cool, temperate regions, these adaptable 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.



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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

A. Shedding B. Skinning

C. Mantising D. Molting

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

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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).

- 12) "I'm vegetarian, I don't eat insects."
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- 20) "See my front legs? I fold them up when I'm at rest, so it looks like I'm praying."
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- 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."
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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!
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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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	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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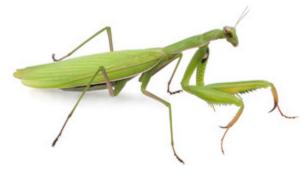


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Praying Mantis

Name:

Answer Key

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8.	<u>C</u>	33.	opinion
9.	<u> </u>	34.	fact
10.	<u> </u>	35.	opinion
11.	<u>C</u>	36.	fact
12.	false	37.	opinion
13.	false	38.	fact
14.	true	39.	fact
15.	false	40.	opinion
16.	false	41.	opinion
17.	false	42.	true
18.	true	43.	false
19.	true	44.	true
20.	true	45.	false
21.	false	46.	true
22.	false	47.	false
23.	false	48.	false
24.	true	49.	false
25.	false	50.	true

		N
51.	true	
52.	exclamatory	_
53.	imperative	_
54.	interrogative	
55.	exclamatory	_
56.	declarative	_
57.	interrogative	
58.	declarative	
59.	interrogative	_
60.	declarative	
61.	imperative	_
62.	exclamatory	
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Praying Mantis

Name:

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Praying Mantis Name:

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