Mayflies are truly magical creatures you might have seen hovering around water bodies. These delicate insects are quite small, usually measuring just an inch or so in length. They have long, slender bodies and two pairs of wings that sparkle when they catch the sunlight. Their unique feature is a pair of long, thread-like tails that they carry behind them everywhere they go.



Now, where do you think these beautiful little creatures live?

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You must be wondering what these tiny creatures eat. Interestingly, adult mayflies do not eat anything at all as their adult life is ridiculously short, sometimes just a few hours! But, that's not the case with mayfly nymphs, the young ones, they feast on algae, dead plants, and tiny water creatures. Their diet helps to keep water bodies clean and balanced, making mayflies super helpful to their environment.



Speaking of being helpful, did you know that mayflies are also important for other animals and even us humans? Birds, bats, spiders, and other insects count on mayflies as a tasty meal. Fishermen use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract fish, making these insects quite useful for human beings too. So, even though they may seem small and unimportant, mayflies play a pretty big role in our world!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What is the average length of a mayfly?

A. around a yardB. around an inchC. around a footD. around a meter

2) What kinds of animals see mayflies as a tasty meal?

A. Dogs, cats, and horses count on mayflies as a tasty meal

B. Birds, bats, spiders, and other insects count on mayflies as a tasty meal

C. Lions, tigers, and bears count on mayflies as a tasty meal

D. Elephants, giraffes, and hippos count on mayflies as a tasty meal

3) Where in the world can you find mayflies?

A. all over the worldB. only in AfricaC. only in AmericaD. only in Europe

4) Who uses artificial flies that look like mayflies?

A. Fishermen use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract fish

B. Bird watchers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract birds

C. Gardeners use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract bees

D. Photographers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to take pictures

5) What is special about the wings of mayflies?

A. Mayflies have only one pair of wings

B. Mayflies' wings are colorful and patterned

C. Mayflies' wings are transparent

D. Mayflies have two pairs of wings

B. near flowers and gardens

6) Where do mayflies live?

A. near deserts with lots of sand to hide

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7) What do adult mayflies eat?

A. fruits and vegetables B. they do not eat

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8) What is the lifespan of an adult mayfly?

A. a few hoursB. a few daysC. a few monthsD. a few weeks

9) Are mayflies nocturnal?

A. Yes, mayflies are nocturnal insects

B. Mayflies are active both during the day and the night

C. No, mayflies are not nocturnal insects

D. The paragraph doesn't provide any information about whether mayflies are nocturnal or not

1-10 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 11-20 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0



- **10)** What do young mayflies eat?
 - A. tree bark and tree seeds
 - C. algae and dead plants

- B. they do not eat anything
- D. fresh fruits and vegetables

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

- 11) "As a mayfly, I find the oceans as the perfect habitat."
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- **19**) "I have a long slender body with two sets of wings."
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- 28) "Fishermen find us mayflies quite annoying."
- 29) "My body is tiny, only about an inch in length. You really have to look closely to spot me!"
- **30**) "Fishermen use fake bugs that look like me to attract fish. See, I can be useful to humans too!"

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

- **31**) Mayflies can be seen all around the world.
- 32) Mayflies are quite interesting because they do not eat anything in their adult life.
- 33) Mayflies live near clean freshwater bodies like rivers and lakes.
- **34)** It is astonishing how mayflies can lead such a short life.
- 35) Mayflies have two pairs of wings.
- **36)** Mayflies are more helpful than other flying insects as they keep water bodies clean and balanced.



- **37)** As adults, Mayflies do not need to eat anything.
- **38)** Mayflies have a pair of long, thread-like tails.
- **39)** Mayflies have the most unique tails compared to other insects.
- **40**) Mayflies live in the most beautiful parts of the world.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **41)** Mayflies can be found in Africa, Europe, and Asia.
- **42**) Adult mayflies are typically 12 inches in length.
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- **44)** Mayflies are normally found around sewers and marshes.
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 51) It's amazing to think that mayflies have been around for over 300 million years!
- 52) Identify the predators of mayflies and how they avoid being eaten.
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		Mayflies		N	ame:	
1.	26.		51			
2.						
3.	28.					
4.	29.					
5.	30.					
6.	31.		56			
7.	32.		57.			
8.	33.		58.			
9.	34.		59.			
10.	35.		60.			
11.	36.		61.			
12.	37.		62.			
13.	38.					
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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Name:

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Mayflies Name: Answer Key

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1-10										
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0

Mayflies

Name: Answer Key

1.	В	26.	true
2.	B	27.	true
3.	A	28.	false
4.	A	29.	true
5.	D	30.	true
6.	D	31.	fact
7.	В	32.	opinion
8.	A	33.	fact
9.	D	34.	opinion
10.	C	35.	fact
11.	false	36.	opinion
12.	false	37.	fact
13.	true	38.	fact
14.	false	39.	opinion
15.	false	40.	opinion
16.	false	41.	true
17.	true	42.	false
18.	true	43.	true
19.	true	44.	false
20.	false	45.	true
21.	false	46.	false
22.	false	47.	false
23.	true	48.	false
24.	false	49.	true
25.	true	50.	true

		Na
51.	exclamatory	
52.	imperative	_
53.	interrogative	
54.	exclamatory	
55.	declarative	
56.	interrogative	
57.	declarative	
58.	interrogative	
59.	declarative	_
60.	imperative	
61.	exclamatory	
62.	imperative	_



Solve each problem.

U	se	the	article	e to	answer	the	question.
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1) What is the average length of a mayfly? (paragraph 1)

A. around a yard B. around an inch

C. D.

2) What kinds of animals see mayflies as a tasty meal? (paragraph 4)

B. Birds, bats, spiders, and other insects

count on mayflies as a tasty meal

C. D.

3) Where in the world can you find mayflies? (paragraph 2)

A. all over the world B. only in Africa

C. D.

4) Who uses artificial flies that look like mayflies? (paragraph 4)

A. Fishermen use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract fish

C. D.

5) What is special about the wings of mayflies? (paragraph 1)

A. Mayflies have only one pair of wings B. Mayflies' wings are colorful and

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C. D. Mayflies have two pairs of wings

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A. near deserts with lots of sand to hide B.

C. D. near clean water

7) What do adult mayflies eat? (paragraph 3)

A. B. they do not eat

C. D.

8) What is the lifespan of an adult mayfly? (paragraph 3)

A. a few hours B. a few days

C. D.

9) Are mayflies nocturnal? (paragraph 4)

A. Yes, mayflies are nocturnal insects B.

C. D. The paragraph doesn't provide any

information about whether mayflies

are nocturnal or not

10) What do young mayflies eat? (paragraph 3)

A. B. they do not eat anything

C. algae and dead plants D.



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