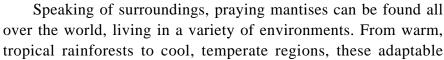
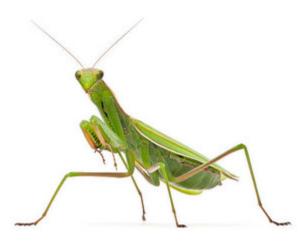


Imagine a creature that looks like it comes from an alien world, with a triangular head that turns 180 degrees and two big, bulging eyes. Well, there's no need to imagine, because such a creature exists right here on Earth - it's called a praying mantis! These fascinating insects are named so because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



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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

A. Shedding

C. Mantising D. Molting

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

A. Shrubs B. Meadows

D. Trees C. Beaches

3) What are baby mantises called?

A. caterpillars B. pupae C. nymphs D. larvae

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

A. It can turn its head 180 degrees. B. It can survive even without its head.

C. It is able to detach its head. D. It grows a new head every 6 months.

5) What colors can a praying mantis be?

A. Purple or yellow. B. Blue or red. C. Green or brown. D. Black or white.

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

A. only one B. up to 500 C. up to 200 D. up to 100

7) Which best describes the diet of mantises?

A. insectivores B. carnivores C. herbivores D. omnivores

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

A. Spring and summer months B. Random times throughout the year

C. Fall and winter months D. All year round

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

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

C. Protects the eggs D. Keeps eggs warm

10) Why do humans appreciate mantises?

A. They make good pets B. They help clean rivers

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11) Why are praying mantises named so?

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

C. because they can turn their heads 180 D. because they are great hunters

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."
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- 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.
- 44) The babies look like miniature versions of their parents.
- **45**) A praying mantis can turn its head 360 degrees.
- **46**) Baby mantises are called nymphs.
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- 50) The praying mantis get their name from their prayer-like stance.
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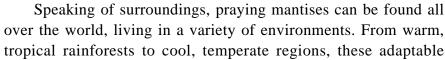
Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 52) The praying mantis is blending perfectly with the leaves!
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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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Name:

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Praying Mantis

Name:

Answer Key

1.	D	26.	true
2.	C	27.	true
	C		true
3.	<u> </u>	28.	false
4.		29.	
5.	C	30.	true
6.	<u> </u>	31.	true
7.	B	32.	fact
8.	A	33.	opinion
9.	<u>C</u>	34.	fact
10.	D	35.	opinion
11.	В	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	1
51.	true	
52.	exclamatory	
53.	imperative	
54.	interrogative	
55.	exclamatory	
56.	declarative	
57.	interrogative	
58.	declarative	
59.	interrogative	
60.	declarative	
61.	imperative	
62.	exclamatory	
63.	imperative	

Name:

Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What is the process called when baby mantises shed their skin? (paragraph 3)

A. B. Skinning

C. D. Molting

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

A. B. Meadows

C. Beaches D.

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

A. caterpillars B. C. nymphs D.

4) What is special about the head of a praying mantis? (paragraph 1)

A. It can turn its head 180 degrees.

B. It can survive even without its head.

C. D.

5) What colors can a praying mantis be? (paragraph 1)

A. B. Blue or red.

C. Green or brown.

6) How many eggs can a female praying mantis lay? (paragraph 2)

A. only one B

C. up to 200 D.

7) Which best describes the diet of mantises? (paragraph 3)

A. insectivores

B. carnivores

C. D.

8) What time of year are praying mantises most commonly seen? (paragraph 2)

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A. They make good pets B

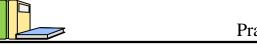
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C. D.

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Praying Mantis Name:

12) "I'm vegetarian, I don't eat insects." (paragraph 3)

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 33
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