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.

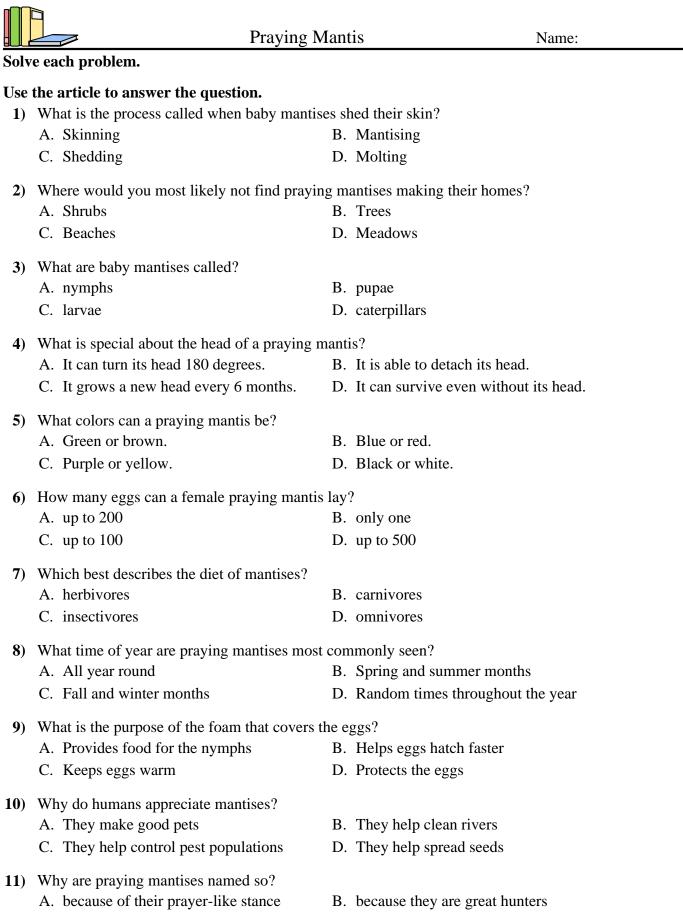


Speaking of surroundings, praying mantises can be found all over the world, living in a variety of environments. From warm, tropical rainforests to cool, temperate regions, these adaptable critters make their homes in trees, shrubs, and even in grassy meadows. They're most commonly seen in the spring 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.



- C. because they have triangular heads
- 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."
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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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- 22) "I look completely different from my parents when I'm younger."
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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."
- **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."
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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!
- 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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- **48)** Praying mantises are herbivores.
- **49**) Praying mantises only live in tropical rainforests.
- 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!
- 53) Watch how it holds its folded forelegs like it is praying.
- 54) What do some cultures consider praying mantises to be symbols of?
- 55) There are over 2,000 species of praying mantises, that's an huge number!
- **56**) Praying mantises help control pests in gardens by eating them.
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- 58) Praying mantises are considered symbols of good luck and patience in many cultures.
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- **60)** Praying mantises use their front legs to appear bigger and scarier when threatened.
- 61) Gently handle a praying mantis to observe it up close, but remember to release it unharmed.
- **62)** Incredibly, some praying mantises can camouflage themselves to blend in with their surroundings!
- **63)** Notice the praying mantis's long and flexible antenna.

		Prayin	g Mantis	Name:	
1.		26.	51		
2.		27.			
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.	Reading	50.			
	Reauling	www.CommonCoreShee	ets.com Page 5 of 5		

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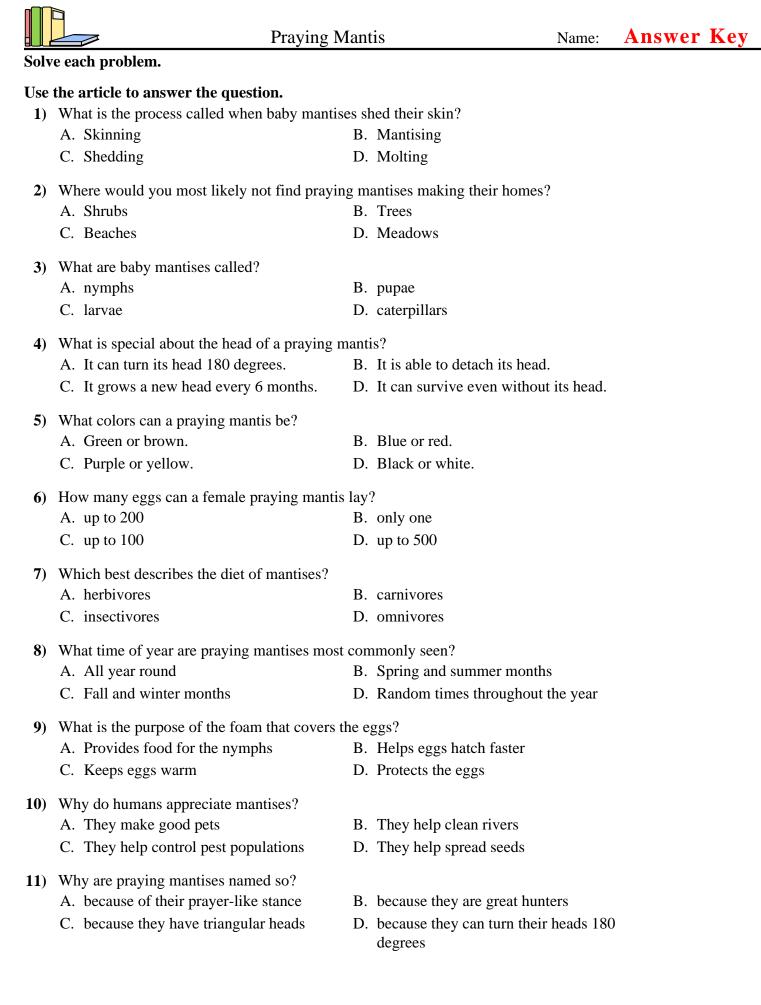


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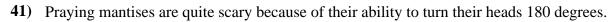
Reading

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Praying Mantis

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			Praying Mant	is		Name:	Answer Key
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2.	С	27	true	52.	exclamatory		
3.	A	28.	true	53.	imperative	_	
4.	A	29.	false	54.	interrogative	_	
5.	A	30.	true	55.	exclamatory		
6.	A	31.	true	56.	declarative		
7.	B	32.	fact	57.	interrogative		
8.	B	33	opinion	58.	declarative	_	
9.	D	34	fact	59.	interrogative	_	
10.	C	35.	opinion	60.	declarative	_	
11.	A	36	fact	61.	imperative	_	
12.	false	37	opinion	62.	exclamatory	_	
13.	false	38.	fact	63.	imperative	_	
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				
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Praying Mantis

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. Skinning B. Mantising C. D. Molting 2) Where would you most likely not find praying mantises making their homes? (paragraph 2) A. Shrubs Β. C. Beaches D. 3) What are baby mantises called? (paragraph 3) A. nymphs B. pupae C. D. 4) What is special about the head of a praying mantis? (paragraph 1) A. It can turn its head 180 degrees. B. It is able to detach its head. C. D. 5) What colors can a praying mantis be? (paragraph 1) A. Green or brown. B. Blue or red. C. D. 6) How many eggs can a female praying mantis lay? (paragraph 2) A. up to 200 Β. C. D. 7) Which best describes the diet of mantises? (paragraph 3) B. carnivores A. C. D. 8) What time of year are praying mantises most commonly seen? (paragraph 2) A. All year round B. Spring and summer months C. D 9) What is the purpose of the foam that covers the eggs? (paragraph 2) B. Helps eggs hatch faster A. C. D. Protects the eggs **10)** Why do humans appreciate mantises? (paragraph 4) A. They make good pets Β. C. They help control pest populations D. **11)** Why are praying mantises named so? (paragraph 1) A. because of their prayer-like stance Β.

C. D.

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