

The Praying Mantis

1. Noun - Plural
2. Noun - Plural
3. Noun - Plural
4. Verb - Present Ends In Ing
5. Body Parts- Paired
6. Same Verb- Present Tense Ending In Ing
7. Noun
8. Noun
9. Noun - Plural
10. Adjective
11. Adjective
12. Noun - Plural
13. Noun - Plural
14. Noun - Plural
15. Animal (Plural)
16. Animal (Plural)
17. Part Of Body
18. Part Of Body
19. Part Of Body
20. Part Of Body
21. Part Of Body
22. Noun
23. Number

- 24. Number
- 25. Unit Of Measure
- 26. Part Of Body
- 27. Adjective
- 28. Number
- 29. Number
- 30. Color
- 31. Noun
- 32. Same Noun

The Praying Mantis

One of the most well-known and fearsome insect predators that inhabits _____, _____, _____ and _____ around the world is the _____ Mantis. This camouflaged creature gets its name from the way it holds its front pair of _____ at rest-resembling someone _____. This position actually serves to help the mantis look less like a _____ as it hides in plain _____ from _____ and prey alike.

Rather than hunt for its food, the mantis sits still on a leaf or plant stem (sometimes for hours at a time) until something _____ comes along. It then ambushes its victim, pouncing on it and grasping it in its strong, spiny _____ forelimbs. The praying mantis feeds mostly on other _____, such as _____ and _____, but larger individuals have been known to attack and consume _____ and _____. A common misconception about mantis feeding behavior is that they always bite their prey's _____ off first in order to sever the _____ _____ and kill it instantly. On the contrary, a mantis will simply begin eating whatever is closest to its mouth even if that means devouring its victim _____ first while it is still alive.

A baby mantis, called a _____, will generally hatch from its egg in early summer. It will take about _____ months for it to reach breeding size at around _____ in length.

Praying mantis females are larger and stronger than males, and are famous for their habit of biting off the male's _____ and then eating him during mating. This actually happens far less often in the wild than it does in captivity, (where most mantis mating is observed) because the _____ conditions of a cage do not

give the male a chance to escape.

A female mantis, when she is ready, will lay _____ Number _____ Number eggs inside a _____ Color _____, styrofoam- like pouch called an _____ Noun _____. She may lay several over the course of her life. She abandons her offspring immediately to survive on their own. The eggs spend the winter inside the _____ Same noun _____ and don't hatch until next summer, when the cycle begins anew.