



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? Mayflies typically make their homes near clean freshwater environments like rivers, streams, and lakes. They can be found all over the world, from the Americas to Africa, Europe, and Asia. So, next time you're near a clean water body, keep your eyes peeled for these tiny dancers of the air!

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 foot
 - B. around a yard
 - C. around an inch
 - D. around a meter

- 2) What kinds of animals see mayflies as a tasty meal?
 - A. Birds, bats, spiders, and other insects count on mayflies as a tasty meal
 - B. Lions, tigers, and bears count on mayflies as a tasty meal
 - C. Dogs, cats, and horses 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. only in Europe
 - B. only in America
 - C. only in Africa
 - D. all over the world

- 4) Who uses artificial flies that look like mayflies?
 - A. Bird watchers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract birds
 - B. Photographers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to take pictures
 - C. Fishermen use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract fish
 - D. Gardeners use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract bees

- 5) What is special about the wings of mayflies?
 - A. Mayflies have only one pair of wings
 - B. Mayflies have two pairs of wings
 - C. Mayflies' wings are transparent
 - D. Mayflies' wings are colorful and patterned

- 6) Where do mayflies live?
 - A. near flowers and gardens
 - B. near swampy water
 - C. near clean water
 - D. near deserts with lots of sand to hide

- 7) What do adult mayflies eat?
 - A. small water creatures
 - B. fruits and vegetables
 - C. they do not eat
 - D. algae and dead plants

- 8) What is the lifespan of an adult mayfly?
 - A. a few months
 - B. a few weeks
 - C. a few days
 - D. a few hours

- 9) Are mayflies nocturnal?
 - A. Yes, mayflies are nocturnal insects
 - B. The paragraph doesn't provide any information about whether mayflies are nocturnal or not
 - C. Mayflies are active both during the day and the night
 - D. No, mayflies are not nocturnal insects



- 10) What do young mayflies eat?
- A. algae and dead plants
 - B. they do not eat anything
 - C. fresh fruits and vegetables
 - D. tree bark and tree seeds

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."
- 20) I am one of the largest insects, almost half a ruler long!
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- 22) "I am an exclusive species found only in Antarctica."
- 23) "I have two long, thread-like tails."
- 24) "Adult mayflies, like me, prefer to munch on a variety of food."
- 25) "Did you know birds, bats, spiders, and other insects see me as a tasty meal? Well, I can't blame them!"
- 26) "As an adult, I don't eat anything at all! That's because my adult life is very short, sometimes just a few hours!"
- 27) "I'm not just here in America, you can find my family all over the world! From Africa to Asia, we're everywhere!"
- 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.
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- 39) Mayflies have the most unique tails compared to other insects.
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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.
- 43) Mayfly nymphs eat tiny water creatures.
- 44) Mayflies are normally found around sewers and marshes.
- 45) Bats and spiders use mayflies as food.
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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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- 54) Wow, did you know mayflies only live for 24 hours!
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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
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| 2. <u> A </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> imperative </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> false </u> | 53. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 4. <u> C </u> | 29. <u> true </u> | 54. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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