



Imagine an insect so cleverly disguised that you might mistake it for a twig. This is not a scene from a fantasy movie but a real-life creature known as the Australian walking stick. These fascinating creatures are long and slender, often brown or green, and perfectly blend into their surroundings. With their six legs, antennae and body that looks like a stick, they can fool even the keenest eyes.



Now, you might be wondering where these sneaky critters live. Australian walking sticks, as their name suggests, are found in Australia, in the wild outback, and lush rainforests. They love hanging out on leaves and branches, which is not surprising considering their diet. They are herbivores, feasting on a variety of leaves, especially eucalyptus.

From being a tiny egg to a full-grown adult, the life cycle of Australian walking sticks is quite remarkable. A female lays her eggs in the branches of trees, and when they hatch, out pops a mini walking stick, called a nymph. These nymphs grow by shedding their skin, a process called molting. After several molts, the nymphs mature into adults with fully developed wings.

While we've seen how they live and grow, their relationship with other creatures is equally fascinating. Humans might find them intriguing because of their unique look and harmless nature. In the animal world though, they have a neat trick to avoid becoming dinner for birds and lizards - they play dead! This, along with their stick-like appearance, makes them different from most other insects.

So next time you're exploring the outdoors, keep an eye out for these masters of disguise. Remember, they might be closer than you think, munching on leaves or pretending to be a twig. From their diet and habitat to their unique defenses and life cycle, Australian walking sticks are truly one-of-a-kind creatures. Who knew that nature's most incredible magic shows could be performed by a creature as simple as a stick insect?





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color can an Australian walking stick be?
 - A. blue or yellow
 - B. black or white
 - C. brown or green
 - D. red or purple

- 2) What happens when a nymph of an Australian walking stick grows?
 - A. They grow feathers and learn to fly.
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- 5) What does the Australian walking stick look like?
 - A. Short and stubby, often red or blue.
 - B. Large and bulbous, often black or white.
 - C. Long and slender, often brown or green.
 - D. Small and round, often pink or yellow.

- 6) Where are Australian walking sticks found?
 - A. Alaska
 - B. Antarctica
 - C. Australia
 - D. Africa

- 7) Which word best describes Australian walking sticks?
 - A. omnivores
 - B. insectivores
 - C. carnivores
 - D. herbivores

- 8) What is a baby Australian walking stick called?
 - A. a nymph
 - B. a pup
 - C. a cub
 - D. a larva

- 9) What animals eat Australian walking sticks?
 - A. Bears and coyotes.
 - B. Cows and goats.
 - C. Dogs and cats.
 - D. Birds and lizards.

- 10) Do Australian walking stick have wings?
 - A. yes only nymphs
 - B. yes only adults
 - C. yes only males
 - D. yes only females

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



- 11) "To keep safe from birds and lizards, I pretend to be dead. And guess what? It works!"
- 12) "My favorite place to live is in the wild outback and the rainforests."
- 13) "Despite my name, I do not live in Australia."
- 14) "I don't get my wings until I'm an adult. Before that I'm just a wingless smaller version of myself."
- 15) "Mmm... I savour the taste of eucalyptus leaves. They're my favourite!"
- 16) "I'm born as a nymph, a tiny walking stick."
- 17) "Lizards and birds avoid me."
- 18) "My long, slender body and green or brown color makes it easy for me to hide."
- 19) "As I grow, I shed my skin over and over. After several shedding, I turn into an adult."
- 20) "I love to play in snow."
- 21) "I was born with fully formed wings."
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- 24) "I crave for some fresh meat now and then."
- 25) "My eggs are laid in the desert."
- 26) "While I may look scary, don't worry, I'm mostly harmless to humans."

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

- 27) The life cycle of Australian walking sticks starts from an egg.
- 28) The Australian outback where Australian walking sticks live is way too hot.
- 29) Australian walking sticks diet mainly consists of leaves, particularly eucalyptus.
- 30) Australian walking sticks are the most unique looking insects.
- 31) Australian walking sticks are native to Australia.
- 32) It takes a long time for a walking stick to become an adult.
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Determine if the statement is true or false.

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- 44) Australian walking sticks will eat lizards and small birds.
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Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 47) They don't bite or sting, so they're safe to have around.
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- 50) It's tough to spot them because of their amazing camouflage.
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- 51) They're herbivores and love to eat eucalyptus leaves.
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 52) Australian walking sticks are not harmful to humans.
- 53) The way Australian walking sticks regenerate their lost limbs during molting is absolutely incredible!
- 54) Australian walking sticks have long, thin bodies that resemble sticks or twigs.
- 55) Are Australian walking sticks insects?
- 56) Do Australian walking sticks have wings?
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| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> true </u> | 51. <u> C </u> |
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| 3. <u> A </u> | 28. <u> opinion </u> | 53. <u> exclamatory </u> |
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