



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. red or purple
B. blue or yellow
C. brown or green
D. black or white
- 2) What happens when a nymph of an Australian walking stick grows?
A. They split into two and become twins.
B. They dig a hole and hibernate for a year.
C. They shed their skin, a process called molting.
D. They grow feathers and learn to fly.
- 3) What do Australian walking sticks eat?
A. blood
B. nectar
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D. leaves
- 4) Where does a female Australian walking stick lay her eggs?
A. In holes in the ground.
B. In water bodies like ponds.
C. In nests made of leaves.
D. In the branches of trees.
- 5) What does the Australian walking stick look like?
A. Short and stubby, often red or blue.
B. Small and round, often pink or yellow.
C. Large and bulbous, often black or white.
D. Long and slender, often brown or green.
- 6) Where are Australian walking sticks found?
A. Antarctica
B. Alaska
C. Africa
D. Australia
- 7) Which word best describes Australian walking sticks?
A. herbivores
B. insectivores
C. carnivores
D. omnivores
- 8) What is a baby Australian walking stick called?
A. a larva
B. a pup
C. a nymph
D. a cub
- 9) What animals eat Australian walking sticks?
A. Dogs and cats.
B. Bears and coyotes.
C. Birds and lizards.
D. Cows and goats.
- 10) Do Australian walking stick have wings?
A. yes only nymphs
B. yes only adults
C. yes only females
D. yes only males

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."
- 22) "My life starts as a tiny egg laid in the branches of trees."
- 23) "G'day mate! As you may have guessed, I'm from Australia."
- 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.
- 33) To avoid predators, Australian walking sticks might play dead.
- 34) Australian walking sticks usually live on leaves and branches.
- 35) Australian walking sticks have the best disguise among all insects.
- 36) The Australian walking stick's way of playing dead to avoid predators is the best survival technique.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 37) Australian walking sticks love to eat eucalyptus leaves.
- 38) Australian walking sticks nymphs go into cocoons before emerging fully grown.
- 39) Australian walking sticks are herbivores.
- 40) Australian walking sticks are only found in Asia.
- 41) To avoid being eaten, Australian walking sticks will often play dead.
- 42) Australian walking sticks mostly eat small insects.
- 43) Australian walking sticks only have four legs.





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| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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| 1. <u>C</u> | 26. <u>true</u> | 51. <u>C</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u> | 27. <u>fact</u> | 52. <u>declarative</u> |
| 3. <u>D</u> | 28. <u>opinion</u> | 53. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 4. <u>D</u> | 29. <u>fact</u> | 54. <u>declarative</u> |
| 5. <u>D</u> | 30. <u>opinion</u> | 55. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 6. <u>D</u> | 31. <u>fact</u> | 56. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 7. <u>A</u> | 32. <u>opinion</u> | 57. <u>exclamatory</u> |
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| 9. <u>C</u> | 34. <u>fact</u> | 59. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 10. <u>B</u> | 35. <u>opinion</u> | 60. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 11. <u>true</u> | 36. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 12. <u>true</u> | 37. <u>true</u> | |
| 13. <u>false</u> | 38. <u>false</u> | |
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| 19. <u>true</u> | 44. <u>false</u> | |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u> | |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>true</u> | |
| 22. <u>true</u> | 47. <u>B</u> | |
| 23. <u>true</u> | 48. <u>A</u> | |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>D</u> | |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>A</u> | |



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