



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 meter
  - B. around a yard
  - C. around an inch
  - D. around a foot
  
- 2) What kinds of animals see mayflies as a tasty meal?
  - A. Lions, tigers, and bears count on mayflies as a tasty meal
  - B. Elephants, giraffes, and hippos count on mayflies as a tasty meal
  - C. Birds, bats, spiders, and other insects count on mayflies as a tasty meal
  - D. Dogs, cats, and horses count on mayflies as a tasty meal
  
- 3) Where in the world can you find mayflies?
  - A. only in America
  - B. only in Africa
  - C. all over the world
  - D. only in Europe
  
- 4) Who uses artificial flies that look like mayflies?
  - A. Fishermen use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract fish
  - B. Gardeners use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract bees
  - C. Photographers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to take pictures
  - D. Bird watchers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract birds
  
- 5) What is special about the wings of mayflies?
  - A. Mayflies have only one pair of wings
  - B. Mayflies' wings are colorful and patterned
  - C. Mayflies' wings are transparent
  - D. Mayflies have two pairs of wings
  
- 6) Where do mayflies live?
  - A. near deserts with lots of sand to hide
  - B. near flowers and gardens
  - C. near swampy water
  - D. near clean water
  
- 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 weeks
  - B. a few days
  - C. a few hours
  - D. a few months
  
- 9) Are mayflies nocturnal?
  - A. The paragraph doesn't provide any information about whether mayflies are nocturnal or not
  - B. Mayflies are active both during the day and the night
  - C. Yes, mayflies are nocturnal insects
  - D. No, mayflies are not nocturnal insects
  
- 10) What do young mayflies eat?
  - A. they do not eat anything
  - B. tree bark and tree seeds
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**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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- 15) "I contribute to polluting water bodies."
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- 18) "When I was young, I used to eat algae, dead plants, and even tiny water creatures!"
- 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!
- 21) "We mayflies are not found in Europe."
- 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!"
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**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.
- 38) Mayflies have a pair of long, thread-like tails.
- 39) Mayflies have the most unique tails compared to other insects.



40) Mayflies live in the most beautiful parts of the world.

**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.
- 46) Mayflies can be found exclusively in the Americas.
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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.
- 53) How long do adult mayflies live?
- 54) Wow, did you know mayflies only live for 24 hours!
- 55) Adult mayflies can live for just a few hours or up to a couple of days.
- 56) What do mayflies eat?
- 57) Mayflies are part of the food chain for fish, birds, and other insects.
- 58) What makes mayflies different from other insects?
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- 60) Look closely at a mayfly nymph and notice its small, tube-like gills.
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- 62) Observe how mayflies use their long tails to help them swim.



# Mayflies

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 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. _____ |
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| 13. _____ | 38. _____ |           |
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| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |           |
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- |                                     |                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 2. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 52. <u>      <b>imperative</b>      </u>    |
| 3. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 53. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 4. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 54. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 5. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 55. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 6. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 56. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 7. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 57. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 8. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 33. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 58. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
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