



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.**

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- 6) Where are Australian walking sticks found?
  - A. Africa
  - B. Alaska
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- 7) Which word best describes Australian walking sticks?
  - A. carnivores
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  - A. yes only nymphs
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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).**



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- 44) Australian walking sticks will eat lizards and small birds.
- 45) Australian walking sticks live in Australia.
- 46) Birds see Australian walking sticks as meal.

**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.
  - A. does not
  - B. do not
  - C. did not
  - D. will not
- 48) Their moms lay tiny eggs that'll hatch into little nymphs.
  - A. that will
  - B. that is
  - C. that can
  - D. that does
- 49) Australian Walking Sticks can't fly like some other stick insects.
  - A. can
  - B. could
  - C. will not
  - D. cannot
- 50) It's tough to spot them because of their amazing camouflage.
  - A. It is
  - B. It was
  - C. It could
  - D. It has
- 51) They're herbivores and love to eat eucalyptus leaves.
  - A. They do
  - B. They were
  - C. They are
  - D. They have

**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?
- 57) It's unbelievable how perfectly Australian walking sticks can camouflage with their environment!
- 58) Australian walking sticks feed on leaves and plants.
- 59) What do Australian walking sticks eat?
- 60) It's amazing that Australian walking sticks can grow up to 8 inches long!



- |                                     |                                       |                                             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 26. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 51. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>             |
| 2. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 27. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 52. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 3. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 28. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 53. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 4. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 29. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 54. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 5. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>      | 30. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 55. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 6. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>      | 31. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 56. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 7. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>      | 32. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 57. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
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| 9. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>      | 34. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 59. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 10. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>     | 35. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> | 60. <u>      <b>exclamatory</b>      </u>   |
| 11. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>  | 36. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u> |                                             |
| 12. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>  | 37. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    |                                             |
| 13. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 38. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   |                                             |
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| 25. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u> | 50. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>       |                                             |



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