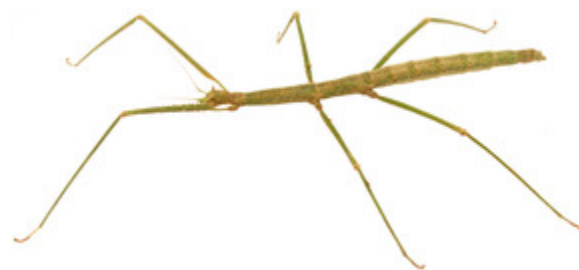




Imagine a creature that looks like a twig, but surprise, it's an insect! This fascinating creature, known as a walking stick, is so good at camouflage, it can easily trick you into thinking it's just a twig hanging from a tree. They have long, slender bodies and legs, with colors ranging from green to brown, perfectly blending with their surroundings. These curious critters are one of the most unique members of the insect world, and they're just waiting to amaze you with their cool tricks!



Speaking of tricks, let's explore some of their survival strategies. Walking sticks are herbivores, which means they munch on leaves, especially the yummy ones from oak and hazelnut trees. When a predator approaches, they play dead or drop from the trees to escape, and if that doesn't work, some can even squirt a smelly spray to scare the predator away! It's a bug-eat-bug world out there, and these guys are fully equipped for it.

From being a master of disguise to having a unique diet, walking sticks sure are interesting, but let's take a peek into their life cycle. The female lays her eggs by dropping them to the ground where they hide among the leaf litter until they hatch. Once they hatch, the baby walking sticks, called nymphs, will grow into adults, shedding their skin as they get bigger. The whole process is a fascinating cycle of growth and transformation.

Now that we know all about their lives, let's see how these little critters interact with us humans and other animals. While they do not have a direct impact on humans, their primary defense mechanism can be irritating if the liquid gets in our eyes. As for other animals, birds, reptiles, and small mammals might see them as a tasty snack, although their camouflage and defenses often keep them safe. These twig-like insects are not just unique in appearance, but they also hold a special place in the web of life, teaching us about the wonders of adaptation and survival.





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do walking sticks eat?
 - A. Human blood and skin flakes.
 - B. Leaves from oak and hazelnut trees.
 - C. Honey and flower nectar.
 - D. Small insects and bugs.

- 2) What color can walking sticks be?
 - A. Black and white
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- 3) What are baby walking sticks called?
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 - C. Larvae.
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 - A. Only if their defense liquid gets in our eyes
 - B. Yes, they are extremely poisonous
 - C. Yes, their bite can cause serious injury
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- 5) How do female walking sticks lay their eggs?
 - A. By burying them deep in the soil
 - B. By hiding them in a leafy cocoon
 - C. By laying them in a nest in the trees
 - D. By dropping them to the ground

- 6) How can walking sticks escape from predators?
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 - A. Large mammals and birds.
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- 8) Where do walking sticks live?
 - A. In the desert
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 - C. In trees
 - D. Underground in burrows

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 - A. Puff up their body to 4 times its size
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 - C. Make a loud screeching noise
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 - A. Herbivores, eating leaves from oak and hazelnut trees
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 - C. Carnivores, hunting for smaller insects
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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).

1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



- 11) "If I see a predator I might squirt out a smelly spray to scare them away!"
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- 24) "My mom drops my egg on the ground, where it stays hidden among the leaves."
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- 27) "I love to eat leaves. My favorite leaf comes from the oak tree."

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

- 28) When a female walking stick lays her eggs, she drops them to the ground.
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- 30) Walking sticks can use a smelly spray to scare predators away.
- 31) Walking sticks are the most gross insects because they squirt out a smelly liquid when threatened.
- 32) Walking sticks are insects that have a body and legs that are long and thin.
- 33) Walking sticks are not interesting because they are just bugs.
- 34) Baby walking sticks, known as nymphs, shed their skin as they grow bigger.
- 35) Walking sticks eat leaves, especially from oak and hazelnut trees.
- 36) The way walking sticks mimic twigs to hide from predators is amazing.
- 37) The ability of walking sticks to squirt a smelly spray when threatened is a cool defense mechanism.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 38) Reptiles see walking sticks as a tasty snack.
- 39) Walking sticks are all brown to blend in with tree twigs.
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- 46) Walking sticks may drop from trees to escape from predators.
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Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 48) Walking sticks don't cause any harm to humans.
A. does not B. do not
C. did not D. will not
- 49) They've been found living in forests and grasslands.
A. They have B. They were
C. They had D. They will
- 50) Walking sticks can't change their size, but they can change colors.
A. can B. will
C. won't D. cannot
- 51) It's amazing how walking sticks can grow their legs back if they lose them.
A. It is B. It was
C. It am D. It has
- 52) They're found in warm climates like tropical and subtropical regions.
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Walking Sticks

Name: _____

1. _____

26. _____

51. _____

2. _____

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24. _____

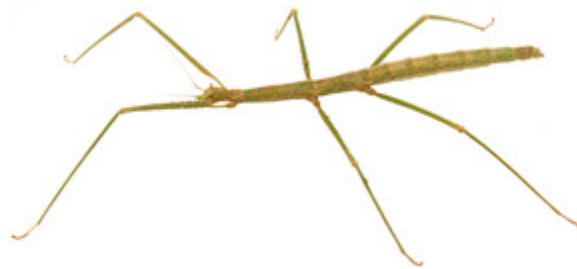
49. _____

25. _____

50. _____



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- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u> B </u> | 26. <u> false </u> | 51. <u> A </u> |
| 2. <u> B </u> | 27. <u> true </u> | 52. <u> C </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> fact </u> | 53. <u> declarative </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> opinion </u> | 54. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 5. <u> D </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> | 55. <u> declarative </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> | 56. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 7. <u> B </u> | 32. <u> fact </u> | 57. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 8. <u> C </u> | 33. <u> opinion </u> | 58. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 9. <u> D </u> | 34. <u> fact </u> | 59. <u> declarative </u> |
| 10. <u> A </u> | 35. <u> fact </u> | 60. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 11. <u> true </u> | 36. <u> opinion </u> | 61. <u> exclamatory </u> |
| 12. <u> true </u> | 37. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> true </u> | |
| 14. <u> false </u> | 39. <u> false </u> | |
| 15. <u> true </u> | 40. <u> true </u> | |
| 16. <u> false </u> | 41. <u> false </u> | |
| 17. <u> false </u> | 42. <u> true </u> | |
| 18. <u> true </u> | 43. <u> false </u> | |
| 19. <u> true </u> | 44. <u> false </u> | |
| 20. <u> true </u> | 45. <u> false </u> | |
| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> true </u> | |
| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> true </u> | |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> B </u> | |
| 24. <u> true </u> | 49. <u> A </u> | |
| 25. <u> false </u> | 50. <u> D </u> | |



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 - C.
 - D.
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