



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



Australian Walking Stick

Name: _____

- 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.
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- 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.
- 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



Australian Walking Stick

Name: _____

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!



Australian Walking Stick

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. _____

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22. _____ 47. _____

23. _____ 48. _____

24. _____ 49. _____

25. _____ 50. _____



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Australian Walking Stick

Name: **Answer Key**

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

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1. A	26. Would	51. C
2. B	27. fact	52. declarative
3. A	28. opinion	53. exclamatory
4. C	29. fact	54. declarative
5. D	30. opinion	55. interrogative
6. C	31. fact	56. interrogative
7. B	32. opinion	57. exclamatory
8. B	33. fact	58. declarative
9. A	34. fact	59. interrogative
10. A	35. opinion	60. exclamatory
11. Would	36. opinion	
12. Would	37. true	
13. Not	38. false	
14. Would	39. true	
15. Would	40. false	
16. Would	41. true	
17. Not	42. false	
18. Would	43. false	
19. Would	44. false	
20. Not	45. true	
21. Not	46. true	
22. Would	47. B	
23. Would	48. A	
24. Not	49. D	
25. Not	50. A	



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Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What color can an Australian walking stick be? (paragraph 1)
A. brown or green B. red or purple
C. D.
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12) "My favorite place to live is in the wild outback and the rainforests." (paragraph 2)