



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 foot
B. around a yard
C. around a meter
D. around an inch
- 2) What kinds of animals see mayflies as a tasty meal?
A. Lions, tigers, and bears count on mayflies as a tasty meal
B. Dogs, cats, and horses count on mayflies as a tasty meal
C. Birds, bats, spiders, and other insects count on mayflies as a tasty meal
D. Elephants, giraffes, and hippos count on mayflies as a tasty meal
- 3) Where in the world can you find mayflies?
A. only in Europe
B. only in Africa
C. all over the world
D. only in America
- 4) Who uses artificial flies that look like mayflies?
A. Fishermen use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract fish
B. Photographers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to take pictures
C. Gardeners use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract bees
D. Bird watchers use artificial flies that look like mayflies to attract birds
- 5) What is special about the wings of mayflies?
A. Mayflies' wings are colorful and patterned
B. Mayflies' wings are transparent
C. Mayflies have two pairs of wings
D. Mayflies have only one pair of wings
- 6) Where do mayflies live?
A. near swampy water
B. near flowers and gardens
C. near clean water
D. near deserts with lots of sand to hide
- 7) What do adult mayflies eat?
A. algae and dead plants
B. they do not eat
C. fruits and vegetables
D. small water creatures
- 8) What is the lifespan of an adult mayfly?
A. a few hours
B. a few days
C. a few weeks
D. a few months
- 9) Are mayflies nocturnal?
A. Yes, mayflies are nocturnal insects
B. Mayflies are active both during the day and the night
C. No, mayflies are not nocturnal insects
D. The paragraph doesn't provide any information about whether mayflies are nocturnal or not



- 10) What do young mayflies eat?
- A. they do not eat anything
 - B. tree bark and tree seeds
 - C. fresh fruits and vegetables
 - D. algae and dead plants

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."
- 12) "As a mayfly I live up to 5 years."
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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!
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- 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!"
- 30) "Fishermen use fake bugs that look like me to attract fish. See, I can be useful to humans too!"

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.
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- 54) Wow, did you know mayflies only live for 24 hours!
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Mayflies

Name: _____

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | 53. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | 54. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ | 55. _____ |
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- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>true</u> | 51. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u> | 27. <u>true</u> | 52. <u>imperative</u> |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>false</u> | 53. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 4. <u>A</u> | 29. <u>true</u> | 54. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 5. <u>C</u> | 30. <u>true</u> | 55. <u>declarative</u> |
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