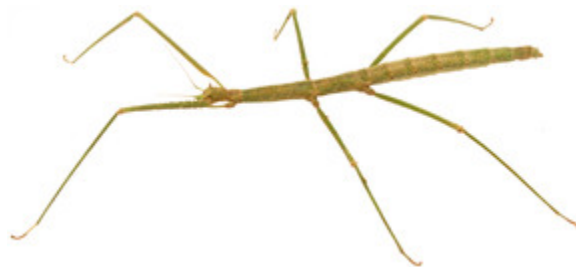




Imagine a creature that looks like a twig, but surprise, it's an insect! This fascinating creature, known as a walking stick, is so good at camouflage, it can easily trick you into thinking it's just a twig hanging from a tree. They have long, slender bodies and legs, with colors ranging from green to 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. Leaves from oak and hazelnut trees.
 - B. Honey and flower nectar.
 - C. Small insects and bugs.
 - D. Human blood and skin flakes.
- 2) What color can walking sticks be?
 - A. Yellow and purple
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 - C. Black and white
 - D. Green to brown
- 3) What are baby walking sticks called?
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 - C. Pupae.
 - D. Larvae.
- 4) Are walking stick insects harmful to humans?
 - A. Only if their defense liquid gets in our eyes
 - B. Yes, they are extremely poisonous
 - C. Yes, their bite can cause serious injury
 - D. No, they are completely harmless
- 5) How do female walking sticks lay their eggs?
 - A. By laying them in a nest in the trees
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 - A. Make a loud screeching noise
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 - A. Herbivores, eating leaves from oak and hazelnut trees
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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) "If I see a predator I might squirt out a smelly spray to scare them away!"
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- 17) "I don't have any defenses against predators."
- 18) "When a danger comes near, sometimes I will play dead or drop down from trees to hide."
- 19) "Did you know my body is super skinny? My shape helps me easily hide among twigs and leaves."
- 20) "Birds, reptiles, and small mammals might try to eat me, but my camouflage and defenses help me stay safe."
- 21) "I attract a lot of attention from predators due to my vibrant colors."
- 22) "As I grow and get larger, I will shed my skin."
- 23) "My spray does not affect humans."
- 24) "My mom drops my egg on the ground, where it stays hidden among the leaves."
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- 26) "The only way I can defend myself is by playing dead."
- 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.
- 29) Seeing a walking stick in the wild is an exciting moment because of their excellent camouflage.
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- 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.
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- 42) Baby walking sticks are called nymphs.
- 43) Female walking sticks lay their eggs on tree leaves.
- 44) Baby walking sticks spin a cocoon after only a year of life.
- 45) Walking sticks do not have any defenses.
- 46) Walking sticks may drop from trees to escape from predators.
- 47) Walking sticks have a smelly spray to scare predators away.

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
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- 53)** Their life cycle includes eggs, nymphs, and adults.
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Walking Sticks

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. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 37. _____ | |
| 13. _____ | 38. _____ | |
| 14. _____ | 39. _____ | |
| 15. _____ | 40. _____ | |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ | |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ | |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ | |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ | |
| 20. _____ | 45. _____ | |
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- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>A</u> | 26. <u>false</u> | 51. <u>A</u> |
| 2. <u>D</u> | 27. <u>true</u> | 52. <u>C</u> |
| 3. <u>B</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> | 53. <u>declarative</u> |
| 4. <u>A</u> | 29. <u>opinion</u> | 54. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 5. <u>B</u> | 30. <u>fact</u> | 55. <u>declarative</u> |
| 6. <u>B</u> | 31. <u>opinion</u> | 56. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 7. <u>A</u> | 32. <u>fact</u> | 57. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 8. <u>C</u> | 33. <u>opinion</u> | 58. <u>exclamatory</u> |
| 9. <u>C</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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Use the article to answer the question.

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C. D.
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A. Make a loud screeching noise B.
C. Squirt a smelly spray D.
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