

Praying



Mantis

Getting to know...

Region & Habitat	Globally, most species are native to tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, South America, and Australia.
Classification	Insects
Size	Between 2 and 5 inches
Nocturnal or Diurnal	Primarily Diurnal
Conservation Status	Not extinct - some countries are protected, but not North America
Average Lifespan	Varies by species, but ranges from a few weeks to about 10 months
Gestational Period	The time it takes for the eggs to hatch varies depending on the species and environmental conditions.
Diet	As carnivores, they eat a variety of live insects like crickets, grasshoppers, and flies. Varies depending on the size.
Scientific Name	Mantodea
Hibernate	No, they die in the fall after mating
Fun Fact	It possesses five eyes, 360-degree head rotation, and spiked forelimbs to catch prey like insects, lizards, and even hummingbirds.

Despite being giants of the insect world, praying mantises are difficult to spot. They are excellent at blending in with their surroundings. In fact, you could be looking at a praying mantis and not even realize it because it looks so much like the plant it's sitting on! Other examples of mantis camouflage: the orchid mantis found in Asia, which is pink or yellow in color to match the orchid blooms, and the conehead mantis in Europe, which has a spiny crown to help it blend in with twigs and branches! The praying mantis is such an excellent hunter that some people may think their name is spelled "preying". However, due to their leg position, they really do look like they're praying. They often hold their legs in a folded position, so it gives them the appearance of sitting in prayer. The praying mantis is a carnivore, and they use their camouflage to help them hunt. And they aren't picky when it comes to prey. They will eat practically anything that's smaller than them. Some of their preferred food items include other insects, small reptiles and amphibians, grasshoppers, and even small birds like hummingbirds! It's commonly thought that during mating, the female mantis will bite the head off the male. However, not all mantis species engage in this practice, and it is actually considered uncommon.

Word Search

D Y E S R N B Z X P G S T Y N Y M P
T H J A S G U G S F I E U F Z W M P
W H L G S Y K M E T A T H O R A X O
D P O I S E D P N F C R O N Q L G R
H T P R K A L A S P W V E N W D Z A
S S F R A K M P G W O W G L Z S R P
E Q E I E X S M E B E V A H A F G T
L L R X I D T G L E S S L B Y Q T O
B E G W O E A Z E F D N F L V Z E R
I S T N E S L T R E N G U A Q G M I
D G F C M F K D O A U W O R I K T A
N E N O S D I E F R Z L M O Y M X L
A L U Y V Z N Z L N Y X A T M M A J
M D Z G X S G G A E D H C I Y K A K
H N B M W E A N N E T N A R H G X I
N I C Q T Y A P K C Y O H R P A T E
R H A S O A M B U S H Y N E U R N Z
T B W R H W W P L T K Z T T X H E Q

Camouflage

Mandibles

Antennae

Forelegs

Predatory

Poised

Metathorax

Hindlegs

Stalking

Ambush

Raptorial

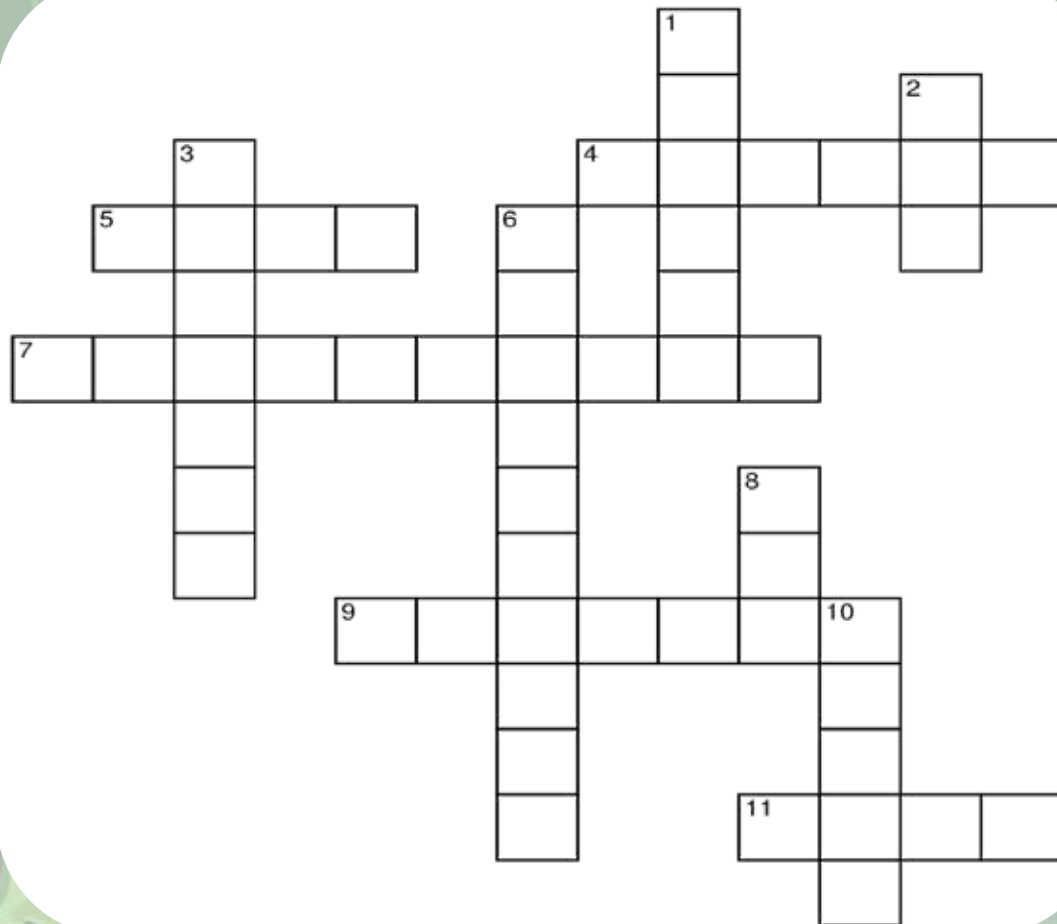
Exoskeleton

Thorax

Mantis

Territorial

Crossword



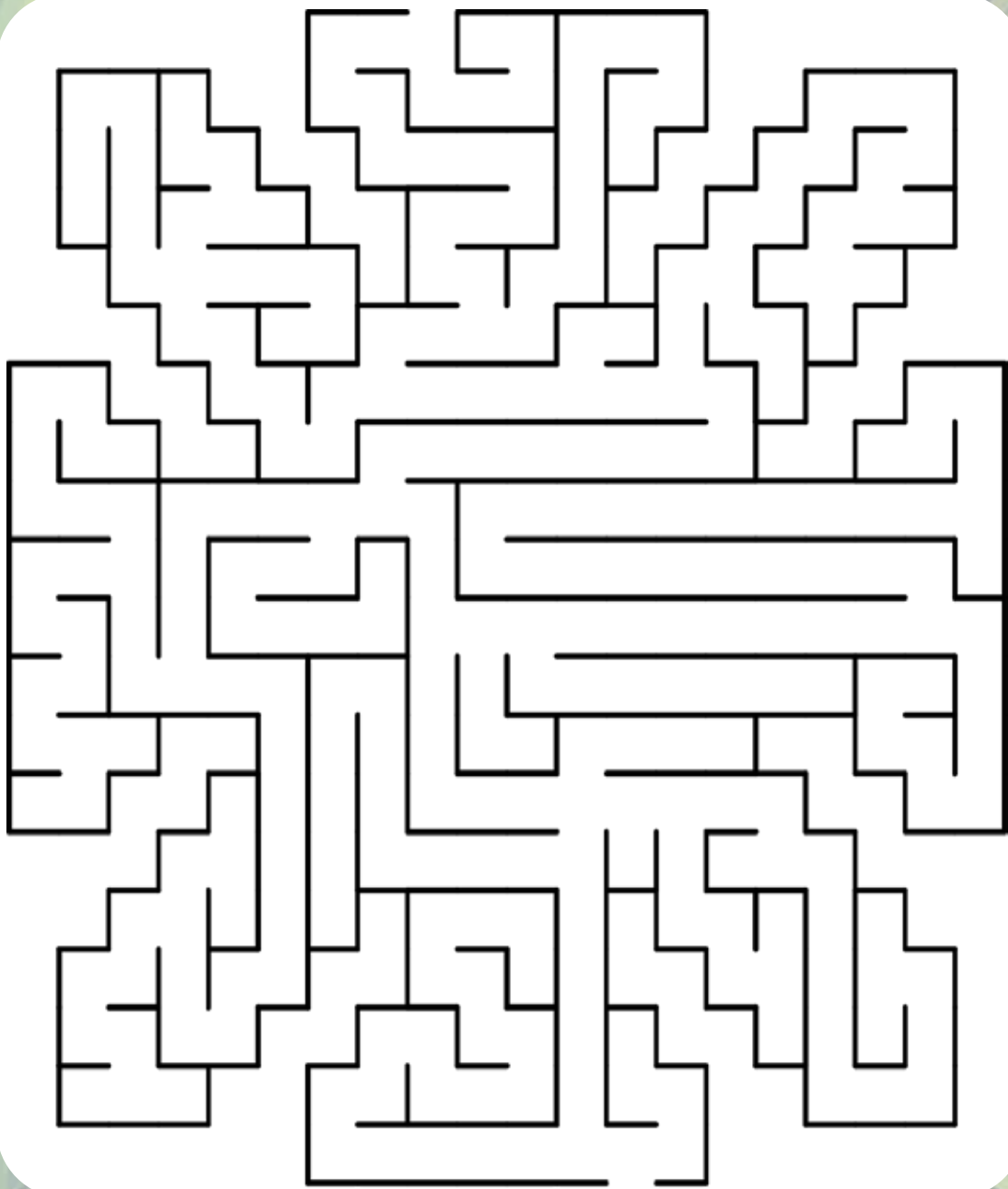
Across

- [4]** Type of mantid sold commercially.
[5] Season when females lay eggs.
[7] Order including mantids and grasshoppers.
[9] Mantid eyes are large and described this way.
[11] Part that rotates 360.

Down

- [1]** Nickname for the mantid's posture.
[2] Minimum number of nymph instars.
[3] Common name for this insect.
[6] Mantids remain in this state for long periods while hunting
[8] Shape of hind wings when unfolded.
[10] A common color phase.

Maze



Solutions

