

Name _____

What Does a Praying Mantis Eat?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The praying mantis's sharp eyesight helps it spot movement, and its camouflage keeps it hidden from prey until it's ready to attack.
2. The praying mantis is a skilled predator because it uses stealth, patience, and powerful legs to catch and eat its prey.
3. As a cricket near a praying mantis, I might see the mantis staying still and blending into a leaf, not realizing it's a predator until it's too late.
4. If praying mantises couldn't hunt, insect populations like crickets and grasshoppers might grow too large, affecting plants and the balance of the ecosystem.

