

Name _____

Praying Mantis Families: From Mating to Egg-Laying

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Female mantises sometimes eat males during mating to gain extra nutrients, which helps them produce strong, healthy eggs.
2. The ootheca protects the eggs during winter by shielding them from harsh weather and predators, ensuring they survive until spring.
3. As a nymph, I would face challenges like finding food and avoiding predators. I would stay hidden and hunt small insects to survive.
4. By leaving the nymphs to fend for themselves, only the strongest and most capable individuals survive, ensuring the species stays strong.

