

Name _____

The Life Cycle of a Praying Mantis

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The ootheca is important because it shields the eggs from predators and bad weather, increasing their chances of survival.
2. Molting allows nymphs to grow by shedding their old exoskeleton and creating space for their larger bodies.
3. As a nymph, I might face challenges like finding food and avoiding predators. I would hide in plants and hunt small insects to survive.
4. Praying mantises have a short lifespan because they focus on reproduction and hunting. This quick life cycle helps maintain their role in controlling insect populations in the ecosystem.

