

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Praying Mantis: A Key Player in the Ecosystem

### Short Answer Key

1. Praying mantises eat grasshoppers, aphids, caterpillars, and other harmful insects.
2. By eating pests, mantises reduce the number of insects that harm plants.
3. Birds, frogs, lizards, and other larger animals hunt praying mantises.
4. Camouflage helps the mantis blend into its surroundings to avoid predators and catch prey.
5. Gardeners and farmers value mantises because they hunt pests naturally and protect crops.

