

Name _____

The Praying Mantis: A Key Player in the Ecosystem

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Being both a predator and prey keeps the ecosystem balanced by controlling insect populations and providing food for larger animals.
2. Gardens with praying mantises rely on natural pest control, which is safer for the environment than chemical pesticides.
3. As a farmer, I might plant native plants to attract praying mantises and avoid using pesticides that could harm them.
4. If praying mantises disappeared, pest populations might grow out of control, harming crops and disrupting the food chain.

