

Name _____



What Does a Walking Leaf Eat?

Walking leaves, also known as leaf insects, are fascinating creatures that blend into their environment by looking just like real leaves. These insects are herbivores, which means they eat plants. Their leafy appearance isn't just for camouflage—it also helps them stay close to their food source.

What Do They Eat?

Walking leaves primarily feed on the leaves of trees and shrubs. They prefer fresh, tender leaves that are easy to chew and digest. Some of their favorite plants include guava, mango, and other tropical trees that grow in the forests where they live. Since they live in lush tropical and subtropical environments, there is no shortage of green leaves for them to eat.

How Do They Eat?

Walking leaves have strong, chewing mouthparts that allow them to bite through tough leaves. Despite their camouflage, they need to be careful while feeding. Staying still is one of their best defenses. When they eat, they often nibble slowly and carefully to avoid attracting the attention of predators like birds and lizards. Their green or brown color helps them blend into the plant while they eat, making it hard for predators to spot them.

When Do They Eat?

Walking leaves are mostly nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night. Feeding at night helps them stay hidden from predators. During the day, they usually rest among the foliage, where they are nearly invisible.

Why Is Their Diet Important?

Walking leaves are part of the ecosystem's food chain. By eating leaves, they help shape plant growth in their environment. Their droppings also enrich the soil, which helps plants grow. In this way, walking leaves play an important role in keeping their forest habitats healthy.

These clever insects not only look like leaves, but they also depend on them for survival. Their diet and camouflage work together to keep them safe and thriving in the wild.