

## Praying Mantis:

### Classification

**Kingdom** : Animalia

**Phylum** : Arthropoda

**Class** : Insecta

**Order** : Mantodea

**Genus** : Mantis

**Species** : *religiosa*



For further details [Link](#), [Link](#)

### Characteristics:

- The praying Mantis is named so because of its folded front legs, depicting the supine gesture of praying. It is a good example of Camouflage.
- **Fun fact:** They are the only insects in the world that can turn their heads 180 degrees. This superpower is useful when hunting prey.
- **Precision:** Mantises have very sharp, powerful front legs that are used to capture their prey. They can quickly and accurately strike their prey, often snagging it before it even realizes it's in danger.
- **Flexibility:** Mantises are very flexible and agile, and they can move in various ways to reach their prey.
- **Prey:** Anything it can handle including crickets, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, moths, small vertebrates such as lizards and frogs and other mantises. Really big mantises even take hummingbirds.
- **Color:** Brown, Grey, Yellow, Black, Green
- **Life span:** One year in the wild, two in captivity.
- **Length:** Females 2.75 to as long as 5 inches, males smaller.
- **Gestation period** : 11 days.
- **Age of Sexual maturity:** About 10 weeks to 6 months.

## **Habit and Habitat:**

### **Habitat:**

- **Tropical rainforests:** Many praying mantis species are native to these areas.
- **Grasslands and meadows:** These open areas provide suitable hunting grounds and camouflage.
- **Deserts:** Some mantis species are adapted to arid environments and can be found hiding in crevices.
- **Temperate regions:** They are also found in areas with warm climates and diverse vegetation, like parts of North America and southern Europe.
- **Gardens and backyards:** Praying mantises can be found wherever there's a good supply of insects, which they prey on.

### **Habit:**

- **Ambush predators:** Praying mantises are masters of camouflage, using it to ambush their prey.
- **Solitary creatures:** They typically live alone except during mating season.
- **Camouflage:** They can resemble leaves, twigs, or even flowers to blend into their environment.
- **Egg laying:** Females lay their eggs in protective capsules called oothecae, often attached to stems or branches.