



# Praying Mantis Gazette

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

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### Gazette Activities

The Praying Mantis Gazette is a four-page mini-magazine with stories about praying mantis adaptations. Gazette activities are designed to introduce students to activities with live insects.

Materials (for each student): gazette, pencil, paper, crayons or markers or colored pencils

The purpose of the Praying Mantis Gazette and related hands-on activities is to build important science skills: observation, description, experiment, quantification and prediction.

### Web Connection

For more **hands-on activities** for use with living mantises, visit [www.earthsbirthday.org/butterflies](http://www.earthsbirthday.org/butterflies)

You will also find a handout on the praying **mantis life cycle**, a mantis **web hunt**, pre- and post-test, links to praying mantis **websites** and other insect activities.

**Glossopedia™**: For more background on praying mantises, visit [GLOBIO.org](http://GLOBIO.org) and enter the Glossopedia™. You'll find amazing pictures and all the relevant facts, designed and written specifically for students, encouraging them to explore their world.

### Praying Mantis Adaptations

Time: 30-45 minutes

Praying mantises are one of the most efficient, strongest predators in the insect world. They have adapted to their habitats with physical characteristics and behaviors that help them hunt, escape danger, and protect themselves.

The gazette describes eight adaptations: (1) camouflage (also called cryptic coloration), (2) swivel necks, (3) powerful forelegs, (4) three simple eyes (in addition to two complex eyes), (5) scary behavior, (6) the ootheca (oh-uh-THEH-kuh), (7) laying many eggs and (8) cannibalism. These names are printed in red as they appear in the gazette.

# Praying Mantis

## GAZETTE

Volume 3

### Inside: 8 Amazing Mantis Adaptations!

Praying mantises are large insects that live almost everywhere, from deserts to rainforests. They have special ways of hunting for food and escaping from danger. These are called **adaptations**. Adaptations help mantises survive in an eat-or-be-eaten world.