

## Animals and Their Needs: The Praying Mantis (Teacher Master)

### Show PowerPoint slide 18 (lesson 2a).

A praying mantis uses its big and excellent eyes to look for food. It can easily turn its neck to look all around its environment for smaller insects to eat. Larger praying mantises also look for small lizards, frogs, fish, birds, and snakes.



Photo courtesy of Gunjan Pandey/Wikimedia Commons

### Show slide 19.

The praying mantis sits very still and waits patiently for insects or other animals (prey) to catch and eat. The praying mantis hides itself by looking a lot like a stick. When an insect or other animal comes close enough, the praying mantis strikes with amazing speed to capture its food.

- *Can you find the praying mantis in this picture?*
- *How does being very still help the praying mantis get the food it needs? [Answer: When the praying mantis is very still, other insects or animals think it's a stick, so the praying mantis can catch them more easily.]*



Photo courtesy of Paul White/Wikimedia Commons

**Show slide 20.**

Praying mantises use their strong, spiny (or spiky) front legs to capture and hold their food (prey) tightly while they use their mouths to eat it. Their mouths have strong jaws that they use to cut and chew their food.

**Video links:**

- A praying mantis captures and eats a fly. (**Note:** Show 1 minute of the clip.)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwPaUma6R\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwPaUma6R_k)

OR

- A praying mantis eats a cricket. (**Note:** This clip is five times the normal speed. Show 1 or 2 minutes.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yl1EW9dTP8>



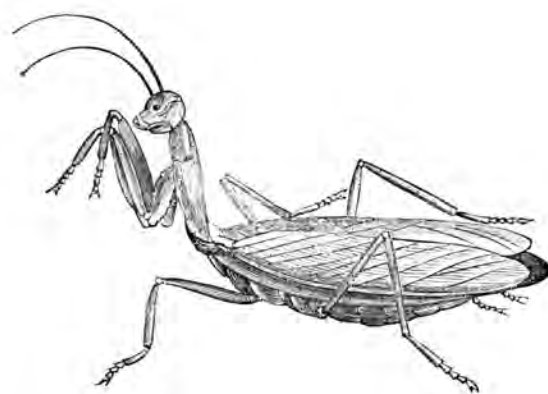
Photo courtesy of Avenue/Wikimedia Commons



Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

**Show slide 21.**

- *What body parts does the praying mantis use to get its food from the environment? [Answer: Eyes to spot the food, legs to pounce quickly, front legs with spikes to hold the food, and a mouth to eat the food.]*

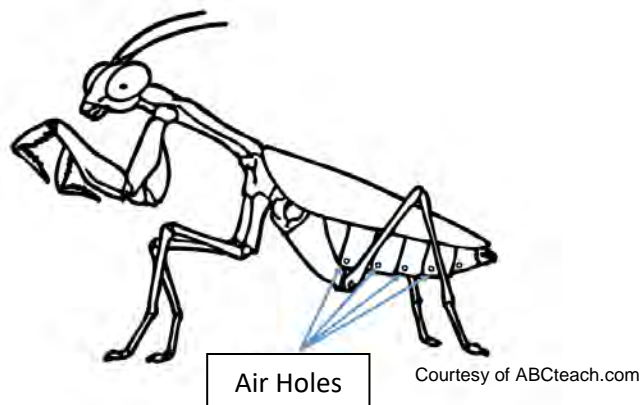


Courtesy of Ineuw/Wikimedia Commons

## Show slide 22.

The praying mantis doesn't breathe like we do, but it does need to take in oxygen from the air. Instead of breathing in the oxygen, the praying mantis has tiny holes along the side of its body. The oxygen in the air flows through these holes. If the praying mantis ends up underwater, it will die because the oxygen can't enter the air holes.

- Can you find the air holes on the praying mantis? [**Answer:** They're along the side of its body by the back legs.]
- Do you think the praying mantis has a nose? Why? [**Answer:** No, because it takes in oxygen through the air holes.]



## Show slide 23.

The praying mantis needs water to stay alive. It uses its mouth to drink the water. This is why we need to spray water in our terrarium!

### Video link:

- A praying mantis drinks water. (**Note:** Show 1 minute of the clip.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiyuBCghZZs>



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