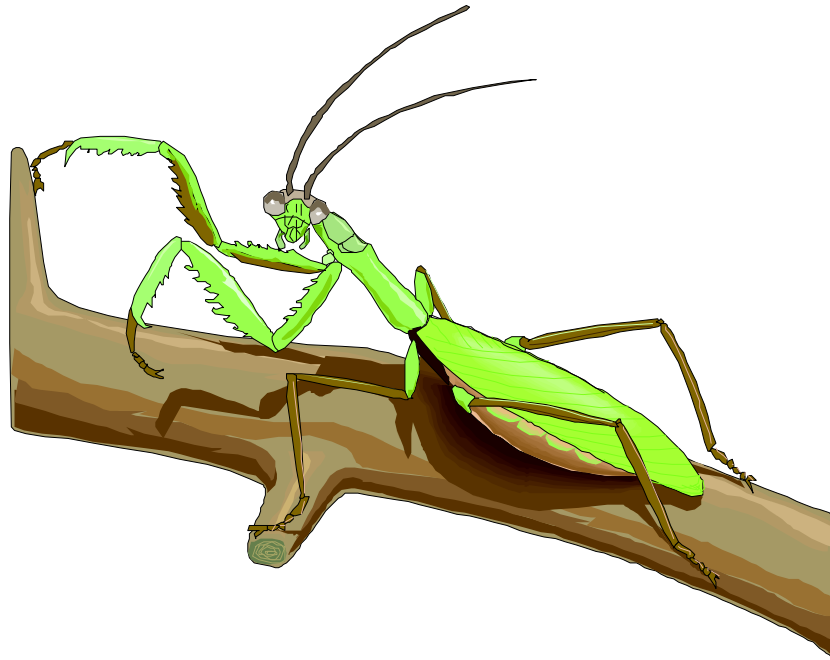


Praying Mantis:



My Home: I am found in warm climates on bushes, trees, houses or any structure where I can find another insect for a meal.

What I eat: I eat other insects.

What I look like: I can be green or brown and range 2 to 3 inches in length. I have a triangular shaped head with a long torso and grasshopper type back legs. My front legs have spines and are held upright when I am still, which looks like I am praying.

How I am born: I go through three stages of development: egg, nymph and adult. The female lays an egg case in the fall that contains up to 300 eggs. I hatch in the spring and emerge as a nymph, resembling a miniature adult except without wings. I will develop into an adult by molting, shedding my skin. As an adult, my lifespan is less than a year.



Fun Facts: They are the only insects that can turn their head side-to-side 180 degrees. Their eyes can see movement up to 60 feet away. Praying mantis bites the back of the neck of their victim to paralyze it before eating it.

There are over 1,500 species of the praying mantis worldwide.