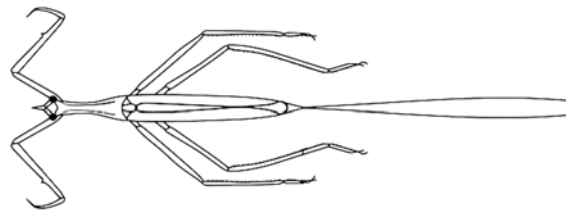


Name _____



Stick Insects: Masters of Disguise

Stick insects are incredible insects that are experts at hiding in plain sight. They look just like twigs or branches from a tree, and that's why they are called "stick insects." These insects are masters of camouflage, which means they are very good at blending in with their surroundings to avoid being seen by predators.

What Do Stick Insects Look Like?

Stick insects come in many different shapes and sizes, but one thing they all have in common is that they look like sticks or branches. They have long, slender bodies that resemble twigs, and some even have bumps and ridges that make them look more like tree bark. Their colors vary depending on the environment they live in, but they often match the colors of the trees or plants where they are found.

Why Do They Pretend to Be Sticks?

Stick insects pretend to be sticks or branches to stay safe from animals that might want to eat them. When they sit still on a tree or plant, they are incredibly hard to spot because they look just like a part of the tree. This camouflage helps them avoid getting eaten, and it's their way of staying hidden in the big, wide world.

How Do They Move?

Stick insects move very slowly, just like a twig swaying in the breeze. This slow movement helps them stay hidden because they don't draw attention to themselves. Some stick insects even rock back and forth as they walk, imitating the way a twig might move in the wind. This makes them even more convincing as a piece of the tree.

Where Do They Live?

Stick insects can be found in many parts of the world, but they are most common in tropical rainforests. They like to live in places with lots of trees and plants because it makes it easier for them to hide. Some stick insects live high up in the trees, while others stay closer to the ground.

How Do They Eat?

Stick insects are herbivores, which means they eat plants. They use their sharp jaws to chew on leaves and other parts of plants. Since they are good at hiding, they can quietly munch on leaves without being noticed by hungry birds or other predators.

In conclusion, stick insects are nature's amazing tricksters. They have evolved to look like sticks or branches, which helps them stay safe from animals that might want to make a meal out of them. Their incredible camouflage and slow, deliberate movements make them fascinating creatures to study.

Name _____

Stick Insects: Masters of Disguise

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What do stick insects look like, and why are they called "stick insects"?
2. Why do stick insects pretend to be sticks or branches?
3. How do stick insects move, and why is their slow movement helpful for them?
4. Where can you often find stick insects, and why do they prefer these places?
5. What do stick insects eat, and how do they get their food?