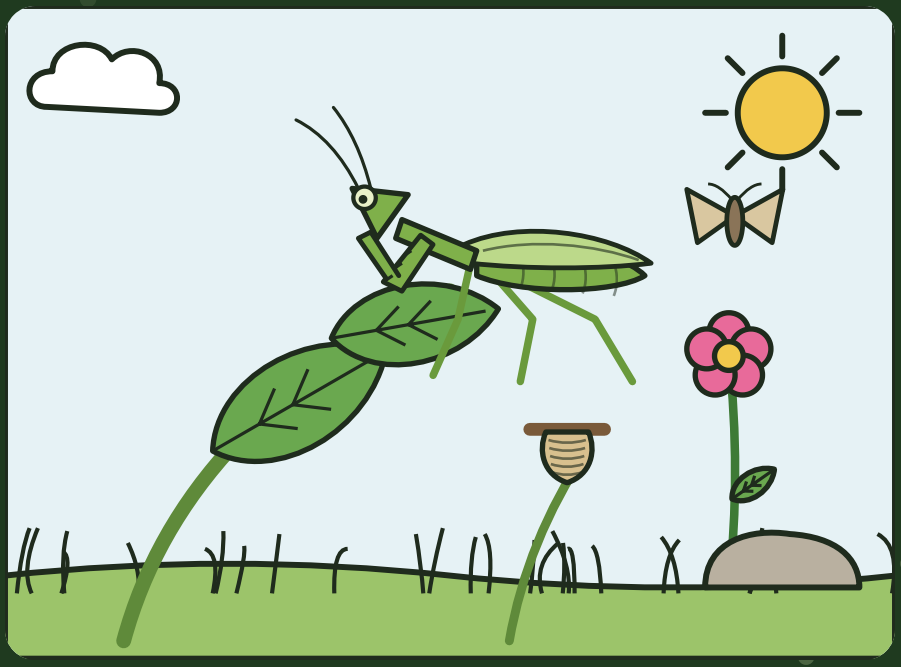
Mantis Printables Free Sample

A taste of the mantis packs from mantises.critters.im



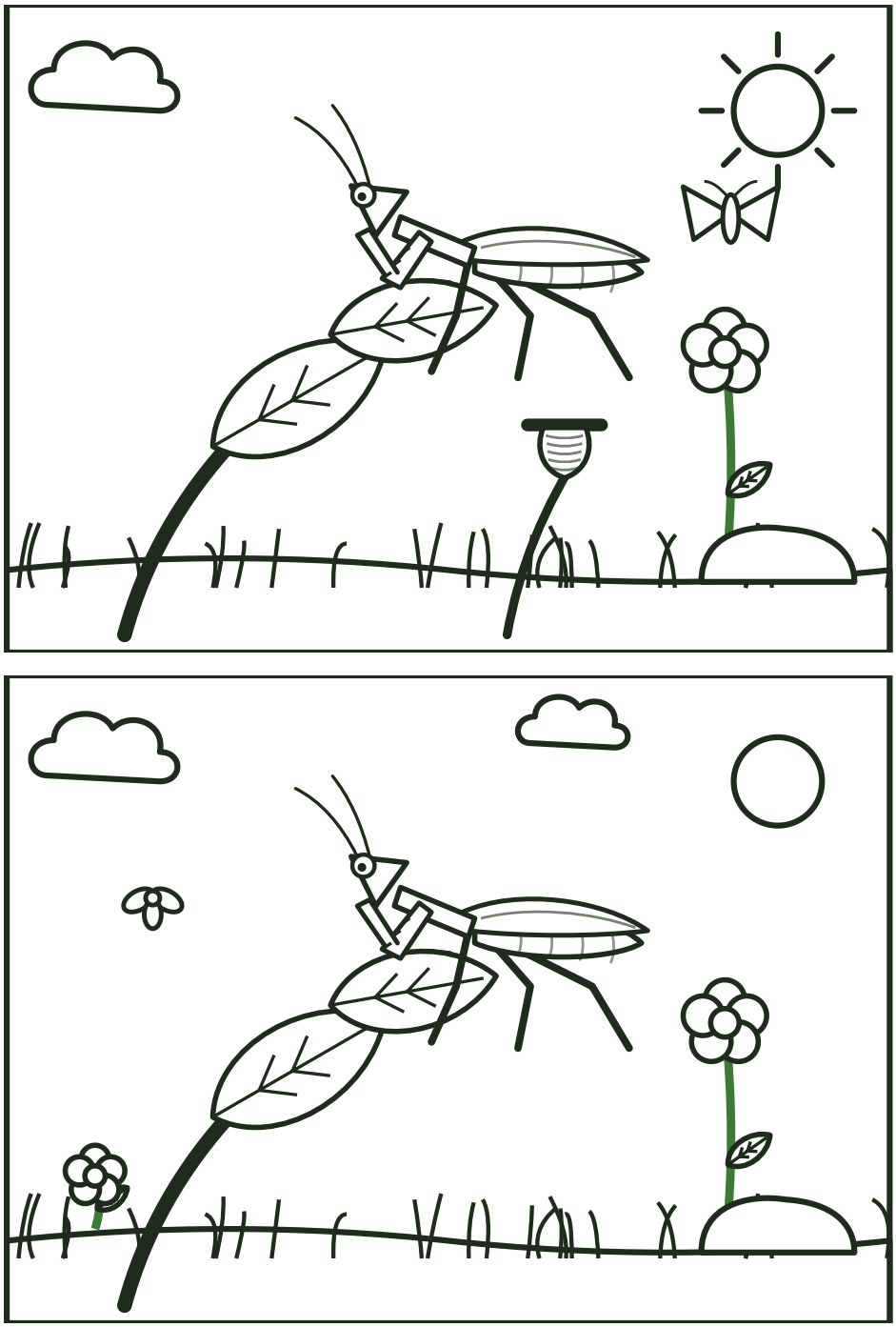
FREE · 6 PAGES · A4 + US LETTER

One puzzle · one colouring page · one poster

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Six changes in the garden

Look carefully. Circle the six differences in the bottom picture.



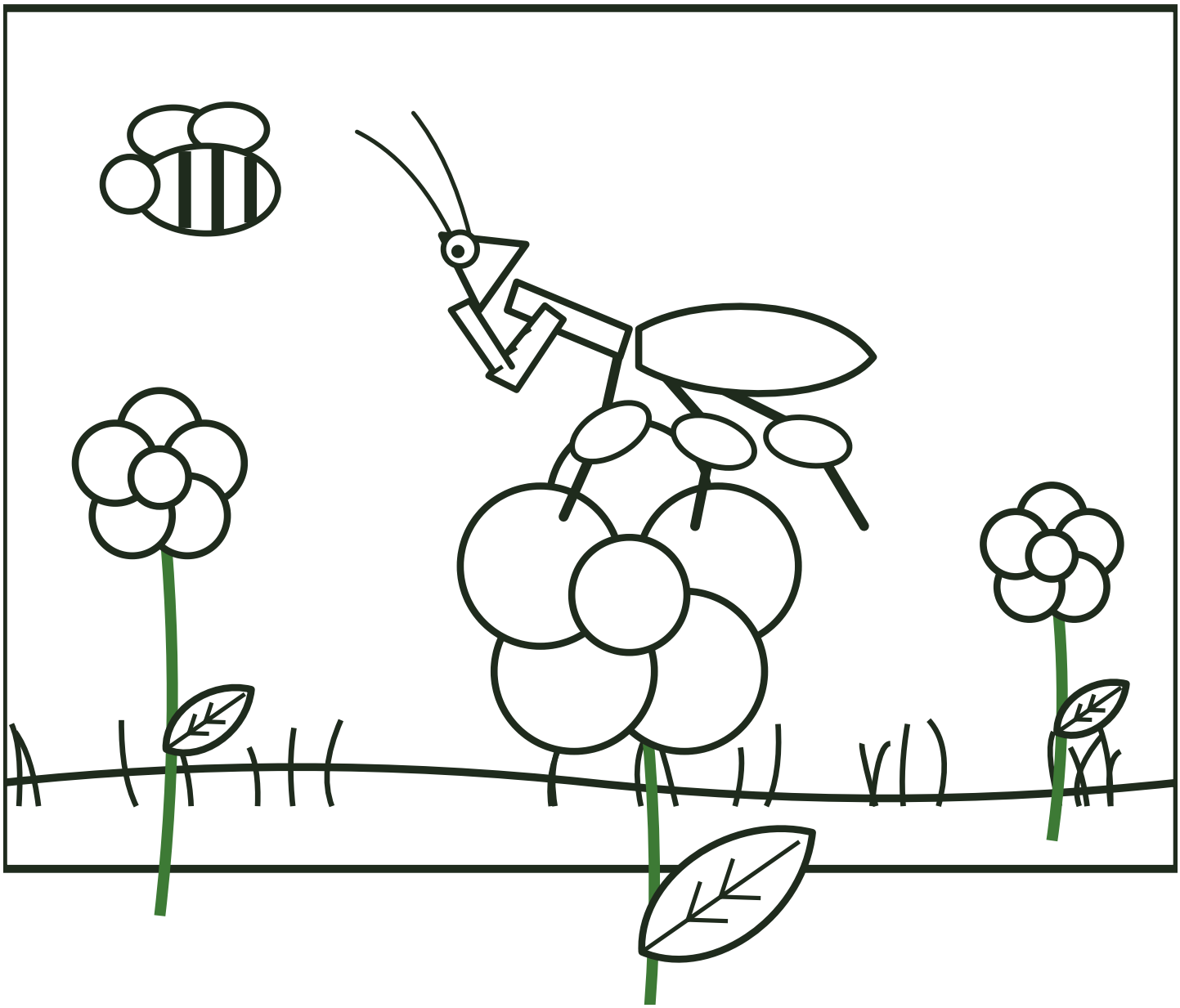
Most mantises are ambush predators: they wait for prey rather than chase it. They spend a lot of time keeping still with their front legs held out, waiting.

Simple drawings by REALLYBYTE, not exact pictures of real mantises.

COLOUR ME

The flower that hunts

Colour the orchid mantis, the flowers and the bee



The orchid mantis has four back legs widened into flat ‘petals’, so it looks remarkably like a white flower. Young orchid mantises may be white or pink, and blend in perfectly with orchid flowers.

Simple drawings by REALLYBYTE, not exact pictures of real mantises.

MANTIS FACTS POSTER

3D glasses for a mantis

The face of a Chinese mantis (photographed in Pennsylvania, USA).

The only insect known to see in 3D

Mantises have the first confirmed 3D (stereo) vision found in any animal without a backbone.

To test it, a team at Newcastle University made tiny 3D glasses for mantises and fixed them on with beeswax.

Red light is hard for mantises to see, so instead of red and blue lenses their glasses had one blue lens and one green.

In an 'insect cinema', the mantises ignored bugs shown in 2D but struck at bugs shown in 3D, floating in front of the screen.

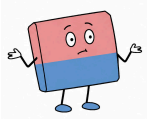
ANSWER KEY · FOR ADULTS

Spot the difference

1. The sun has lost its rays
2. There is an extra cloud
3. The moth has gone
4. There is an extra fly
5. There is an extra purple flower
6. The egg case on the little stem has gone

WANT MORE?

Six full mantis packs (species fact cards, life cycle, spotter's pack, activity and colouring, posters, quiz and word puzzles) are available from the REALLYBYTE store: see mantises.critters.im/shop/ for links. Free mantis facts and games: mantises.critters.im



Free! Like me. Nobody paid for me either.

Credits, licence & help

The small print, kept short

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PICTURES

IMAGE	CREDIT	LICENCE	SOURCE PAGE
Tenodera sinensis face.jpg	Kaldari	CC0	commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tenodera_sinensis_face.jpg

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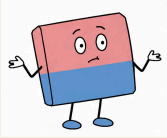
WHERE THE FACTS COME FROM

Every fact in this pack was checked against the source pages below on 31 Oct 2026. These are fixed facts that do not depend on the date. Answers to maths questions are worked out from those figures.

Britannica: Mantis: www.britannica.com/animal/mantid
Australian Museum: Praying mantises (Order Mantodea): australian.museum/learn/animals/insects/praying-mantises-order-mantodea/
O'Hanlon 2016, Current Biology quick guide: Orchid mantis: www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(15)01421-9
Natural History Museum, London: Small orders collection (Mantodea): www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/services/collections/entomology/small-orders.html
Newcastle University, 7 January 2016: Tiny glasses confirm 3D vision in insects: www.ncl.ac.uk/press/articles/archive/2016/01/3dglassesformantises/



NEED HELP?

Useless can't help (he's an eraser, and currently standing very still behind the shed, pretending to be a leaf), but we can. Problems with your file, or spotted something we should fix? Email **info@reallybyte.com**.

More free mantis facts and games: mantises.critters.im