

Weird and Wonderful Marine life

Reading Comprehension

Y3

Y4

Marine life consists of **plants, animals and other living organisms** that reside in the sea or the ocean. Marine life accounts for a hefty ninety-four percent of the Earth's living species! **The World Register of Marine Species** reports that there are 240,470 accepted species but this is believed to be only a small fraction of what really exists underwater.

Here are five unusual and interesting sea creatures for you to enjoy!

1. Anglerfish: This angry looking fish lives in the deep, dark, depths of the ocean. Its most distinctive feature is the lamp it wears above its head. This 'lamp' is used to lure prey close enough to be snatched into their huge mouths. The glow is created by bioluminescent bacteria that inhabit the end of the rod like structure, which is called an **esca**.



2. Blobfish: This blob like fish does not have a full skeleton or muscles, its body is made from a jelly like substance. It can withstand immense sea pressure where it lives deep underwater and is actually thought to look more like a regular fish in its own habitat than it does out of the water.



3. Sand striker: To catch its prey, this marine worm buries itself into the ocean floor leaving its wide-open mouth and five antennae exposed. When a fish brushes past the sensor-like antennae, the sand strikers mouth snaps shut with such speed and force that it can snap its prey in two.



4. Blue Whale: The blue whale is not only the largest animal in the Ocean, but on the whole of Earth! Their tongues alone can weigh as much as one elephant! The blue whale can dive up to 500m to catch its food but being a mammal it must come to the surface of the water for air.



5. Flying Fish: These fish are seen worldwide jumping out of the water and 'flying' distances of up to 200 metres to escape predators. Their torpedo shape helps them to gather enough speed to break the water's surface and their wing shaped pectoral fins help them to glide through the air.



QUESTIONS

1. Which three words that together use alliteration, describe where an anglerfish lives?

2. What is an 'esca' and what purpose does it serve to an anglerfish when catching prey?

3. True or False: *Anglerfish feed on bioluminescent bacteria.*

4. Which adjective is used to describe the sea pressure where a blobfish lives?

5. Describe how a sand striker catches its prey:

6. True or False: A blue whale is the largest animal in the sea but not the largest on Earth.

7. Underline the correct answer: A flying fish...

has a propeller

glides through the air using wing shaped fins

is endangered

8. Match the marine life to its distinctive feature

blobfish

Has a tongue that weighs as much as an elephant.

blue whale

Glides through the air to escape predators.

sand striker

A fish with a minimal skeleton made from a jelly like substance.

flying fish

Buries itself into the ocean floor and has sensor like antennae.

9. Which of these creatures do you find the most weird and wonderful and why?



Elephants

Found throughout various countries in eastern and southern Africa, the magnificent African Elephant is the largest land animal and is even larger than the Indian Elephant! If you're travelling in countries such as Botswana, Tanzania or Zimbabwe, you might be lucky enough to spot one in their natural habitat. Every year, these incredible mammals travel around the country, so that they can find food during the wet and dry seasons.

What do elephants look like?

Did you know that African elephants are normally about 3 metres tall, which is the same as three young children standing on each other's shoulders? Incredibly, their weight can increase to roughly 5,400 kg! Normally, male elephants are larger than females but both males and females have tusks. These are large, pointed, ivory teeth. Unfortunately, poachers (someone who hunts, captures or kills wild animals illegally) kill these beautiful creatures for their tusks. Covering their bodies, they have wrinkled, grey-brown skin which has very little hair. Interestingly, African Elephants can be identified by their ears! These elephants have extremely large ears which are up to 1.5 metres long and are shaped like the continent of Africa. Scientists have found out that the elephants' ears can be used to cool them down so they don't become overheated!

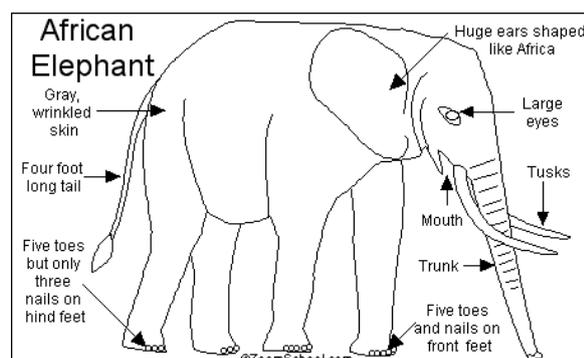
What do elephants eat?

These herbivores actually spend most of their time eating. They usually eat roots, grasses, leaves, fruit and bark and regularly eat up to 260 kg every day when they become adults. They use their tusks and trunk to get food and water. The elephant's long trunk is probably the most recognisable part of the elephant! To get water, the elephant sucks water into the trunk, then curls it towards their mouth and squirts the water into it! Elephants breathe through two nostrils at the end of their trunk, which is an extension of the nose.

How do elephants behave?

Did you know that elephants are very loyal animals? These mammals have very strong social bonds, which means they like living in herds. The females are the head of the herds and they are called cows. Occasionally, males, who are called bulls, will join the group, yet, the females remain in charge.

Elephants are in danger of becoming extinct (to die out). Although many organisations are trying to protect this amazing animal, the elephant's main enemy is man and they are in danger of extinction due to loss of habitat and poaching (they are killed for their ivory tusks).



Questions

1. Where can you find African elephants in the wild? (1 mark)

2. Why do elephants move around? (1 mark)

3. Circle the correct answer to complete each of these sentences:

d) Elephants are normally about... (1 mark)

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| three metres long. | four metres tall. | three children. | three metres tall. |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|

e) Normally, male elephants are... (1 mark)

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| larger than females. | smaller than females. | the same size as females. | afraid of females. |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|

f) Poachers sometimes kill elephants for their... (1 mark)

| | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| skin. | ears. | tusks. | tails. |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|

4. Answer true or false to these statements. (4 marks)

| Statements | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| Elephants are carnivores. | | |
| Elephants eat roots, grasses, leaves, fruit and bark. | | |
| They eat up to 2600 kg a day. | | |
| Elephants breathe through their two nostrils. | | |

5. How do elephants use their trunks to drink water? (3 marks)

6. Why do elephants live in herds? (1 mark)

7. Who is the elephants' main enemy? Why? (2 marks)





How to Escape a Football Stadium

Have you found yourself lost at the end of a football match? Did you leave your family to go to the toilet but came back to find the stadium had emptied? Luckily, these easy instructions will help you to quickly return to your family again. If you do not follow each step with care, mistakes might happen.

Equipment:

- Football scarf;
- Football programme;
- Mobile phone (which won't have any signal.)

Method:

1. Firstly, find your match programme because this will have a map of the stadium on. The map must be closely studied with the torch on your mobile phone to find out where you are in the stadium. You can also use your ticket stub: it will have your seat number, tier level and stand on.
2. After that, find the concrete steps, which lead to the pitch. Use your torch to stop you tripping and falling over the plastic seats.
3. When you arrive at the pitch, you must take care of the grounds men with their pitch forks and the sprinklers because these will get you soaking wet! Use your scarf for protection and to stop you getting too cold.
4. Dash towards the players' tunnel, tip-toe past the changing room and search for the exit signs which should be above any door ways. These will help you to the exit.
5. Finally, you should have made your way to the metal gates to the football stadium. You've now made it to the exit and escaped your scary surroundings!

A final note of warning:

Make sure you stay away from any away fans who might be hanging around!



Questions

1. What do these instructions help you to do? Tick one. (1 mark)

- Escape from a zoo
- Escape from a football stadium
- Go to a football stadium
- Bake a cake

2. Where did the person go before they got lost? Tick one. (1 mark)

- The pitch
- The stadium
- The restaurant
- The toilet

3. What will happen if you don't follow the instructions? (1 mark)

4. Circle the items that you need to take with you. (3 marks)

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|------|----------|--------------|
| Football scarf | Football programme | Rope | Rucksack | Mobile phone |
|----------------|--------------------|------|----------|--------------|

5. Place the instructions in the correct order from 1 - 5. (2 marks)

- Be careful of the grounds men.
- Find your match programme.
- Make your way to the metal gates.
- Tip-toe past the changing rooms.
- Find the concrete steps.

6. Why might the person using the instructions feel scared? (2 marks)



European Holidays

Fact and
Opinion

There are many places to visit on holiday in Europe that are perfect for that special summer getaway. There are sandy beaches, bustling cities, historical castles and green hills. There is also a variety of places to stay; perhaps for you, camping is more fun than staying in a hotel. Many countries have resorts perfect for families, with facilities such as swimming pools and playgrounds nearby. For a more romantic escape, couples may prefer a break in one of Europe's beautiful historic cities, such as Rome, Barcelona or Paris. I would definitely recommend a trip to Europe for your next great adventure as it is full of beautiful landmarks and fun experiences.

National Curriculum Reference:
2d - Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.

European Holidays Comprehension Questions

Fact and
Opinion

Write **fact** or **opinion** for each of these statements about the text:

1. There are many places to visit on holiday in Europe.
2. There are sandy beaches.
3. Camping is more fun than staying in a hotel.
4. There are resorts that have swimming pools.
5. Couples may prefer a break in one of Europe's beautiful historic cities.
6. It is full of beautiful landmarks and fun experiences.

National Curriculum Reference:
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Fireworks – Beautiful but Dangerous

Main Idea

Fireworks are beautiful. They come in many different forms and are designed to make a variety of colours, patterns and noises when they explode. Some of the most popular fireworks are Roman candles, Catherine wheels, rockets and sparklers.

People let off fireworks at different occasions and they are used as a form of celebration. As well as on Bonfire Night, fireworks are used at weddings, birthdays and at many large, organised events. Most famously perhaps, fireworks are used around the world on New Year's Eve to celebrate the start of the new year.

Although they look wonderful, fireworks can be very dangerous. Common firework injuries include hand burns, eye injuries and more seriously, amputations. In order to stay safe, there are certain tips and rules that people should follow. For example, fireworks should be kept in a closed metal box, children should be kept at a safe distance and people should never return to a lit firework.

National Curriculum Reference:
2c - Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

Fireworks – Beautiful but Dangerous Comprehension Questions

Main Idea

Answer these questions, summarising the **main idea** of each section. You may use the sentence starters to help you.

1. What is the main idea of the whole text?
The main idea of the whole text is...
2. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
The main idea of the paragraph 1 is...
3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
The main idea of the paragraph 2 is...
4. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?
The main idea of the paragraph 3 is...

National Curriculum Reference:
2c - Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

The Mystery of the Poet Thief

Avoiding the crowd outside, Detective Smith hastily ducked under the 'POLICE: DO NOT ENTER' tape, confidently dodged the broken glass on the pavement and ducked as he entered Ruby's Jewellery Shop. Tiny shards of glass glinted in the bright light coming in through the window. Detective Smith had unfortunately seen this kind of scene many times before. He paused to pull out a handkerchief from his pocket to wipe his brow. Still, it felt different this time. Ruby was a dear friend of his and he'd known her for years.

Surprisingly, only one glass cabinet in the entire shop was broken. Peering closer, he saw the empty jewellery stand. Underneath it, something else caught his eye. It was a piece of paper poking out. On it was a note addressed to him! It said, 'Rubies are red, violets are blue, can you guess where I'm next going to?' With furrowed brow, Detective Smith scratched his grey beard and gazed out of the window, thoughtfully.

National Curriculum References:

2b - Retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.

2c - Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

2d - Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.

2e - Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.

The Mystery of the Poet Thief Comprehension Questions

Answer these questions, summarising the **main idea** of each section. You may use the sentence starters to help you.

1. Describe the main character of the story. **The main character is...**
2. What has happened so far in the story? **In the story so far, ...**
3. What is the story setting? **The setting is a...**
4. Can you predict what might happen next? **I think that...**
5. What is the **genre** of this story? Explain how you know.
The genre is _____ because it says...

National Curriculum References:

2b - Retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.

2c - Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.

2d - Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.

2e - Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.