

## National Geographic Kids Reader: Deadliest Animals

### Notes for teachers: using this book in the classroom

**Reading objectives:** read most words quickly and accurately, without overt sounding and blending, when they have been frequently encountered; read aloud books closely matched to their improving phonic knowledge, sounding out unfamiliar words accurately, automatically and without undue hesitation; retrieve and record information from non-fiction; read accurately words of two or more syllables

**Spoken language objectives:** participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play/improvisations and debates; give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings

**Curriculum links:** Science: Animals, including humans; Living things and their habitats; Writing – composition; Art and Design

**Interest words:** predator, allergic, venom, carnivore, prey, herbivore, species, toxic, paralysed, invertebrate, pollinate, processionary caterpillar, hippopotamuses, Cape buffaloes, Sydney funnel web, mosquitoes, unsuspecting, ferocious, stampede, tentacles, pincers, huge, hulking, lumber

**Resources:** paper; pencils/crayons; ICT

Children who are reading at White and Lime book bands will be able to read this book in a group, pair or independently over several sessions. They will have good reading stamina and will be able to tackle more challenging vocabulary and a range of varied sentence structures. Guided group work and independent challenges can be used to develop retrieval, interpretation and meaning making, as well as children's ability to express and explain ideas and concepts.

### Language

- Most of the language in the book will be decoded by children using the full range of cues available to them and extensive word knowledge. Some discussion in guided groups and after independent reading can be used to develop children's abilities to understand and interpret more complex information. Children may need help with the following:
  - decoding and understanding some of the words contained in the *deadly definitions* triangles: *predator, allergic, venom, carnivore, prey, herbivore, species, toxic, paralysed, invertebrate, pollinate*. Use the glossary for visual information to help with meaning making.
  - reading and pronouncing some deadly creature names: *processionary caterpillar, hippopotamuses, Cape buffaloes, Sydney Funnel web, mosquitoes*.
  - reading less familiar words with multiple syllables: *unsuspecting, ferocious, stampede, tentacles, pincers*.

# Collins

- Children may need help to discuss the initial question on page 6 to set up their subsequent reading: are lions the most deadly creature?
- Children may need help with some of the less familiar vocabulary that is used to describe the appearance and actions of deadly creatures, e.g. *huge hulking, lumber*.
- Children may need help to record key information about which is the most deadly creature, and why, as they read.
- Children may need help to use the index to locate information about each deadly creature, in order to reread about it and answer questions about it.

## Images

- Look at the image on the front cover and discuss what the lion is doing and what *deadliest* means. Ask children to suggest other creatures that are deadly, and to look through the book to see if they can find them.
- Using the images of each deadly creature, challenge children to use their senses. If they were faced with it, how would it smell, feel, sound?
- Look closely at the images and describe what is happening as each predator attacks.

## Activities

- Use the table of contents to challenge children to name the most deadly creature of all, prior to reading. Compare their ideas after reading and see whether anyone was right.
- Challenge children to choose their favourite deadly creature (use the index). Provide paper and pencils/ crayons, or use ICT to create a poster to warn humans about the dangers of the creature, and to give advice on how to stay safe if you are near it.

## Questions

- How can kangaroos be deadly to humans?
- What is a carnivore?
- Why do hippos sometimes attack people?
- Where does the poison dart frog get its name from?
- Which is the deadliest creature and why?