

National Geographic Kids Reader: Weird Sea Creatures

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; discuss and clarify the meanings of words; be introduced to non-fiction books that are structured in different ways; discuss the sequence of events in books and how items of information are related

Spoken language objectives: 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

Interest words: predators, camouflage, prey, bioluminescence, venom, submersibles, diagonal butterflyfish, Dumbo octopus, Pacific Ocean, anemone, illustration, lure, paralysis, tentacles, pressure, submersibles

Pronunciation guide: bioluminescence (*bio-loo-min-essence*), anemone (*a-nem-on-ee*)

Resources: templates for multiple choice questions

Children who are reading at Purple and Gold book bands should be able to read longer and more complex sentences and tackle more challenging and less familiar vocabulary with increasing independence. They may still need support from adults to help maintain fluency and to develop understanding as ideas become more complex, and more inference and deduction is required. Guided and Independent reading opportunities can be used to develop these skills.

Language

- Most of the language in this book will be manageable to children reading at this level and many words will be decoded independently. Some discussion may be needed in guided groups to develop comprehension as less familiar and technical vocabulary is introduced. Children may need help with the following:
 - decoding and understanding some of the words contained in Water Word boxes: *predators, camouflage, prey, bioluminescence, venom, submersibles*.
 - reading creature names: *diagonal butterflyfish, Dumbo octopus, Pacific Ocean, anemone*.
 - reading less familiar technical vocabulary that appears in the main text: *illustration, lure, paralysis, tentacles, pressure, submersibles*.
- Children may need help using the organisational devices, e.g. the table of contents to find information, the alphabetically organised glossary.
- Children may need help to use a range of cues to make full meaning as they read, e.g. on pages 6–7, children need to understand that information from the title, text in more than

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one paragraph, and information in the *water word* box can be used to understand what a predator is and does.

Images

- Look at the image on the front cover. Challenge children to find powerful adjectives, and to create expanded noun phrases to describe the creature, e.g. It has a gruesome under-hung jaw.

Activities

- Turn to page 30. Challenge children to work with a partner to create three more multiple choice questions, based on their reading. Provide a template that has a space for a question or statement, and 4 possible answers: a, b, c, d.

Questions

- What skills do some weird sea creatures have?
- What is special about a Dumbo Octopus?
- What do weird sea creatures use camouflage for?
- How does a Gulper Eel eat?
- What is bioluminescence? (*hint – see table of contents and glossary*)