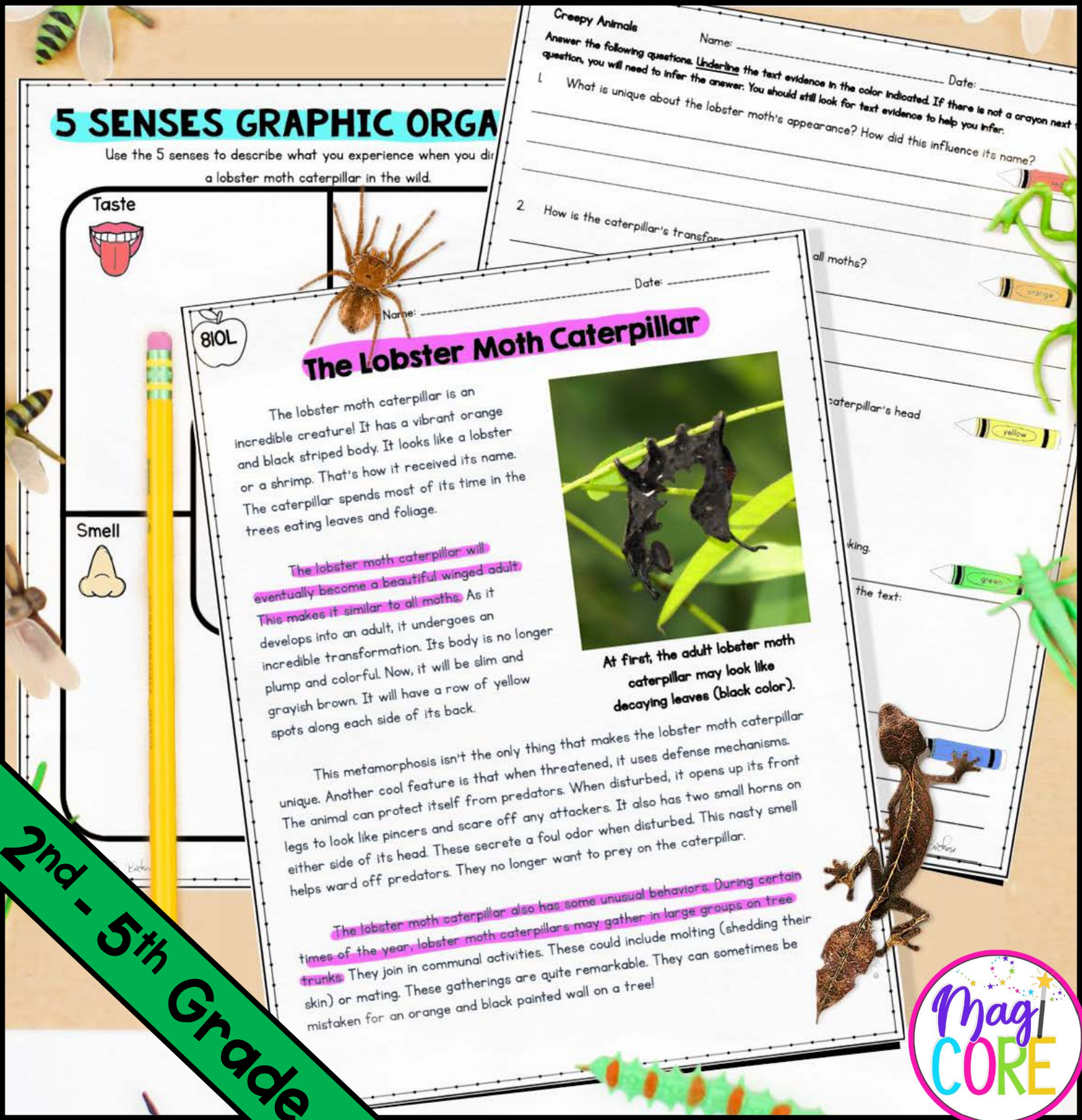
CREEPY ANIMALS

Differentiated Passages

LEXILE®

RELUCTANT READERS



2nd - 5th Grade

MagiCORE

CREEPY ANIMALS PASSAGES

2nd- 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 differentiated leveled passages in the 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th Grade Text Complexity Bands (the range for 2nd-3rd is 420-820 and 4th-5th grade is 740-1010). Each passage is available on three levels and comes with general comprehension questions, a skill-based activity, and a reading response activity.

This product line, Reluctant Readers, is designed to foster an interest in reading, even your most resistant readers. With interest-based topics, these passages can help build excitement and investment around reading.

1. The Goblin Shark (480L, 810L, 960L)
2. The Goliath Birdeater Spider (480L, 810L, 1000L)
3. The Aye-aye (460L, 790L, 1010L)
4. The Naked Mole Rat (490L, 820L, 950L)
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6. The Cyclops Shark (400L, 790L, 1000L)
7. The Goliath Tigerfish (480L, 780L, 980L)
8. The Lobster Moth Caterpillar (480L, 810L, 1010L)
9. The Bat-eared Fox (470L, 820L, 980L)
10. The Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko (490L, 810L, 1010L)
11. The Turtle Frog (480L, 820L, 970L)
12. The Frilled Shark (510L, 820L, 1010L)

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

480L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Goliath Birdeater Spider



A female Goliath birdeater spider

The Goliath birdeater is a frightening spider. It is in the tarantula family. It can be found in South America. It is mostly found in Venezuela, Guyana, and northern Brazil.

The Goliath birdeater's large size makes it look scary. Its legs can span up to 11 inches. It can weigh up to 6 ounces. Its body is dark brown or black. Bright yellow-orange hairs cover its legs and abdomen. It has two long spinnerets at the end of its abdomen. They are used to spin webs.

The birdeater's name comes from its diet. It is large enough to eat small birds. But it mostly feeds on worms and insects. It may prey on frogs and lizards. It can even fight off snakes! It rarely feeds on birds. Birds have wings and can fly away from the spider.

The Goliath birdeater spider has venomous fangs. They help to defend it against predators and capture prey. The venom is not dangerous to humans. It is like a bee sting. It may cause minor pain and redness. The males live for about 10 years. The females live up to 25 years.



A Goliath birdeater next to a one-dollar bill for size comparison.

The Goliath birdeater makes a loud hissing sound when in danger. It is made by rubbing bristles together on its legs. This is called stridulation. It is a scary warning. The sound works. It can also kick tiny, spiked hairs from its abdomen. These hairs can be irritating if inhaled. It is safe to observe it outside of its habitat. It can't attack if you don't go near it!

The Goliath birdeater spider looks scary. Keep in mind it is a fascinating creature.

©Julie Bochorst

810L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Goliath Birdeater Spider



A female Goliath birdeater spider

The Goliath birdeater is one of the most frightening spiders on the planet. It is a species in the tarantula family. It can be found in parts of South America such as Venezuela, Guyana, and northern Brazil.

This spider's large size makes it appear intimidating. It can be up to 11 inches in leg span and 6 ounces in weight. Its body is dark brown or black in color. Bright yellow-orange hairs cover its legs and abdomen. Two long spinnerets at the end of its abdomen are used to spin webs.

The Goliath birdeater gets its name from its diet. It is large enough to eat small birds. It mostly feeds on worms and insects like most other spiders. Sometimes it preys on small vertebrates like frogs and lizards. It rarely feeds on birds as they have wings and can fly away easily. This spider has even been known to fight off snakes!

The Goliath birdeater spider has venomous fangs. They are used for defense against predators and for capturing prey. The venom is not extremely dangerous to humans. Its effects are similar to a bee sting with minor pain and redness. In fact, some cultures keep these spiders as pets! The males live for about 10 years while females live up to 25 years or longer. A birdeater's life span increases if it is held in captivity and well cared for.



A Goliath birdeater next to a one-dollar bill.

If threatened, the Goliath birdeater spider produces a loud hissing sound by rubbing bristles together on its legs. This act is called stridulation. It is an intimidating warning. It keeps potential aggressors away better than a bite. It may also kick tiny, barbed hairs from its abdomen at predators. These tiny hairs can be very irritating if inhaled. There is limited risk with observing one outside of its natural habitat. It can't attack you if you stay clear of it!

While it may be intimidating, the Goliath birdeater spider is an interesting and fascinating creature.

©Julie Bocking

1000L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Goliath Birdeater Spider



A female Goliath birdeater spider

The Goliath birdeater is one of the most fearsome spiders on the planet. It is a species in the tarantula family. It can be found in parts of South America such as Venezuela, Guyana, and northern Brazil.

This arachnid has an intimidating appearance due to its large size. It reaches up to 11 inches in leg span and 6 ounces in weight. Its body is typically dark brown or black in color. This sharply contrasts the bright yellow-orange hairs that cover its legs and abdomen. Two long spinnerets at the end of its abdomen are used to spin webs.

The Goliath birdeater spider gets its name from its diet. It is large enough to eat small birds. It mostly feeds on worms and insects like most other spiders. It also preys on small vertebrates such as frogs and lizards occasionally. It rarely feeds on birds since they are much more difficult to catch due to their flight capability. Interestingly, this spider has even been known to fight off snakes.

Like other tarantulas, the Goliath birdeater possesses venomous fangs that it uses for both defense against predators and capturing prey. However, despite popular belief, the venom is not particularly dangerous to humans. It will cause some minor pain and redness if injected but nothing worse than a bee sting. In fact, some cultures keep these spiders as pets! The males live for about 10 years while females may live up to 25 years or longer. A birdeater will often live longer if in captivity and well cared for.

©Julie Bachus

When threatened by a predator or human being, the Goliath birdeater spider produces a loud hissing sound by rubbing bristles together on its legs. This act is called stridulation. It serves as an intimidating warning gesture that often keeps potential aggressors away more effectively than any bite would have done. Furthermore, it may also kick tiny, barbed hairs from its abdomen at would-be attackers. These tiny hairs can be incredibly irritating if inhaled. Despite all these means of self-defense, there aren't any real risks associated with coming close enough to observe a birdeater outside of its natural habitat. After all, it can't attack you if you don't allow it to come within reach.

While it may be intimidating, the Goliath birdeater spider is an incredibly interesting and fascinating creature.



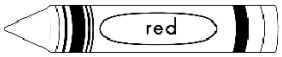
A Goliath birdeater next to a one-dollar bill for size comparison.

©Julie Bertagna

Creepy Animals Name: _____ Date: _____

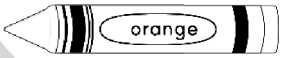
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. Where are the spinnerets located on the Goliath birdeater spider?



   a. In its venomous fangs.
   b. On its legs and abdomen.
   c. Only on its legs.
   d. Only at the bottom of its abdomen.

2. Why does the spider rarely prey on birds?



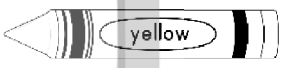
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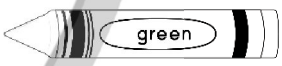
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3. What is the primary difference between female and male Goliath spiders besides their gender?

   a. The females carry more venom than the males.
   b. The females typically live significantly longer than the males.
   c. The males are larger and prey on large birds.
   d. The males live longer than the females.



4. Explain the meaning and purpose of "stridulation" in your own words.



_____

_____

_____

5. How do the tiny spiked hairs on the spider's abdomen help defend against predators?



_____

_____

_____

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MISCONCEPTIONS

Some of the things people believe about Goliath birdeater spiders are not accurate. These false beliefs are called "misconceptions."

Some people are frightened by the Goliath birdeater spider because it looks scary. Think about what you read in the text. Do humans have any reason to fear the spider?

Fill in the graphic organizer below with some misconceptions and truths about the spider that you learned from the text.

Misconception		Truth
Goliath birdeater spiders are frightening.	VS.	
Misconception	VS.	Truth
Misconception	VS.	Truth

©Julie Bachosa

GOLIATH BIRDEATER SPIDER RESPONSE

Use the facts you learned about the Goliath birdeater spider to write a summary of the text explaining some of the common misconceptions people have. Be sure to include the most important things people should learn about the creature.

©Julio Barbosa

460L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Aye-aye

The aye-aye is an incredible creature. It is from Madagascar. It is a nocturnal lemur. It looks very unique. It is one of the most recognizable primates in the world.

The aye-aye is about 16 inches tall. It weighs about 5 pounds. It looks like a mix of a squirrel and a bat. Its closest relatives are primates. It has big ears and huge eyes. It has long claws on its fingers and toes. It uses echolocation to gauge the sounds of prey. It can locate grubs hiding in tree bark. It uses its long front teeth to gnaw the bark. Then, it will extract the grubs.

The aye-aye has dark brown fur. It has silver and gray highlights. It looks white in certain light. This helps it blend into its environment. Its prey cannot see it.



The aye-aye has a long tail like a squirrel.

The aye-aye is a solitary animal. It joins other aye-ayes seasonally for breeding. Males make territories where they know females roam. Males compete to mate with females. They make loud calls at night. This attracts females.

The aye-aye's diet is mainly grubs. It eats fruit, nectar, flowers, seeds, larvae, and spiders. It eats small reptiles. These include lizards and snakes. It only eats those if found while searching for food at night.

©Julie Bachorz

The aye-aye uses a camouflage technique. It is called "cryptic coloration." It can be hidden in shadows. Predators can't catch it as it hunts at night. The fur helps it blend into its environment.

Seasons affect what the aye-aye eats. It changes its diet during dry seasons. It will hunt grasshoppers or other small insects. It depends on the food that can be found easily in drought. Food is plentiful during wet seasons. It eats grubs.



The aye-aye uses its fur to blend into the environment while hunting at night.

The aye-aye helps us learn about rainforests. Its presence tells us if the habitat is healthy. It depends on healthy rainforests for food. Rainforests provide shelter from predators. Fewer aye-ayes in the rainforests means trouble. There may be an unhealthy ecosystem.

The aye-aye was once endangered. This was due to hunting and loss of habitat. Conservation groups protect the aye-aye. It is no longer in the same danger. Progress has been made to protect it.

The amazing aye-aye is a neat creature. Its unusual look grabs our attention. It is an important part of our planet's biodiversity.

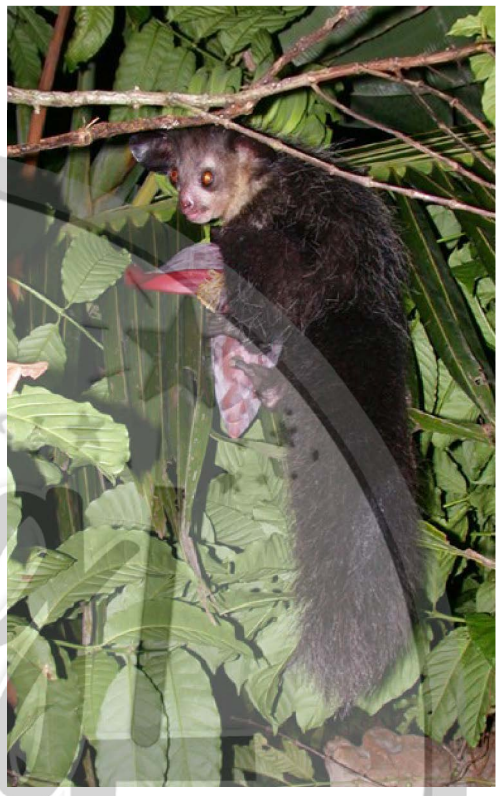
©Julie Backus

790L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Aye-aye

The aye-aye is an incredible creature from the island of Madagascar. It is a nocturnal lemur. It is the world's largest nocturnal primate. Its unique appearance makes it one of the most recognizable primates in the world.



The aye-aye has a long tail like a squirrel.

The aye-aye is about 16 inches tall and weighs about 5 pounds. It looks like a combination of a squirrel and a bat. However, its closest relatives are actually primates. It has big ears and huge eyes. It has long claws on its fingers and toes. These help it find food at night. It uses echolocation to locate grubs hiding beneath tree bark. It uses its long front teeth to gnaw through the bark. Then, it will extract the grubs.

The aye-aye also has distinctive dark brown fur with silvery-gray highlights. It almost appears white in certain lighting. This helps it blend in with its environment. It also helps to keep it undetected during nighttime activities.

The aye-aye is primarily a solitary animal. It will come together with other aye-ayes seasonally for breeding. Males establish territories that overlap multiple females' ranges. When females enter these territories, males will compete for mating rights. They will begin making loud calls throughout the night.

The main part of the aye-aye's diet is grubs. It uses echolocation to locate the hidden insects underneath tree bark. It uses its long front teeth to gnaw through the bark. It feeds on fruit, nectar, flowers, seeds, larvae, and spiders. It has been known to eat small reptiles such as lizards and snakes. It only eats these if it finds them while searching for food at night.

©Julie Bachorz



The aye-aye uses its fur to blend into the environment while hunting at night.

The aye-aye has evolved an incredible camouflage technique known as "cryptic coloration." This allows it to be hidden in shadows. Predators can't catch it while hunting for food at night. The unique coloring of the fur helps it blend into its environment.

Seasonal changes can affect what an aye-aye eats. During dry seasons or periods of drought, it will hunt grasshoppers or other small insects. It depends on the food that can be found in abundance during these times. Food is more plentiful during wet seasons. So, it will return to consuming grubs and other small animals like lizards and snakes again.

The aye-aye indicates the environmental health in Madagascar's rainforests. Its presence can be used to gauge how intact or damaged a particular habitat might be. The aye-aye depends on healthy rainforests for food sources as well as shelter from predators. Any decrease in its population could hint at an unhealthy ecosystem or deforestation.

The aye-aye was once endangered due to hunting and loss of habitat. However, recent efforts by conservation groups have protected it from further danger. There has been much progress toward preserving this species over the last decade.

The amazing aye-aye is one of nature's most remarkable creatures. Its unusual look often grabs our attention. It also represents an important part of our planet's biodiversity! We can provide protection so this species continues to thrive for generations.

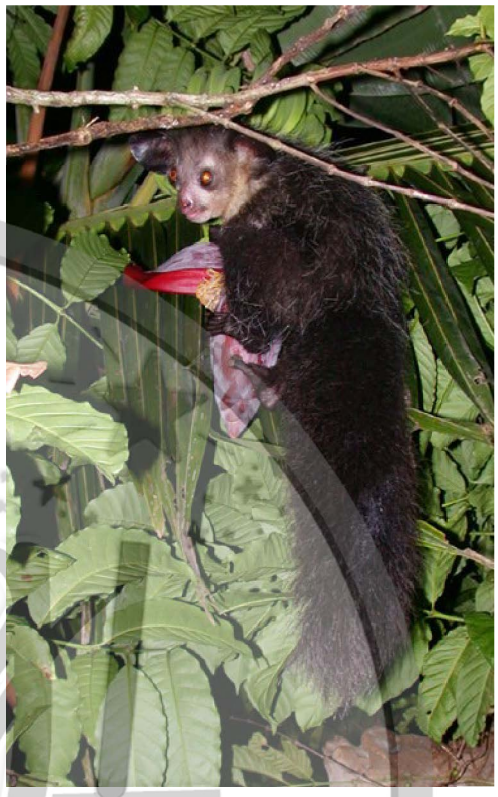
©Julio Bochoso

1010L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Aye-aye

The aye-aye is an incredible creature native to the island of Madagascar. It is a nocturnal lemur and the world's largest nocturnal primate. Its unique appearance has made it one of the most recognizable primates in the world.



The aye-aye has a long tail like a squirrel.

The aye-aye stands about 16 inches tall and weighs about 5 pounds. It looks like a combination of a squirrel and a bat. However, its closest relatives are actually primates. It has big ears and huge eyes. There are long claws on its fingers and toes. These help it find food at night. It uses echolocation to locate grubs hiding beneath tree bark. It uses its long front teeth to gnaw through the bark and extract the grubs.

The aye-aye also has distinctive dark brown fur with silvery-gray highlights. It almost appears white in certain lighting conditions. This helps it blend in with its environment. It also helps it remain undetected during nighttime activities.

Though it is primarily a solitary animal, the aye-aye will come together with other aye-ayes seasonally for breeding. Males establish territories that overlap multiple females' ranges. When females enter these territories during breeding season, males will compete for mating rights. They will begin making loud calls throughout the night.

The main part of the aye-aye's diet is grubs. It uses echolocation to locate the hidden insects underneath tree bark. To extract the insects from their hiding places, the aye-aye uses its long front teeth to gnaw through the bark. It also feeds on fruit, nectar, flowers, seeds, larvae, and spiders. It has been known to consume small reptiles such as lizards and snakes, usually only if it comes across them while searching for food at night.

©Julie Bochorse



The aye-aye uses its fur to blend into the environment while hunting at night.

The aye-aye has evolved an incredible camouflage technique known as "cryptic coloration" which keeps it hidden in shadows. This ensures it doesn't get caught by predators while hunting for food during nighttime hours. The unique colorings of the fur help it blend seamlessly into its environment.

A unique aspect of an aye-aye's diet is how seasonal changes can affect what it eats. When there isn't sufficient food available due to dry seasons or periods of drought, it will supplement its diet with grasshoppers or other small insects. It depends on food that can be found in abundance during these times. When food is more plentiful during wet season months, such as March-April or September-October, it will switch back over to consuming mostly grubs and other small animals like lizards and snakes again.

The aye-aye is also an indicator of environmental health in Madagascar's rainforests. Its presence can be used to gauge how intact or damaged a particular habitat might be. It depends upon healthy rainforests for food sources as well as shelter from predators. Any decrease in its population could hint at an unhealthy ecosystem or deforestation.

The aye-aye was once endangered due to hunting pressure and loss of habitat. However, recent efforts by conservation groups have protected it from further danger. There has been much progress toward preserving this species over the last decade or so.

The amazing aye-aye is one of nature's most remarkable creatures. Its unusual look often grabs our attention. It also represents an important part of our planet's biodiversity! We can provide proper protection so this incredible species continues to thrive for generations to come!

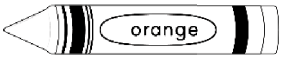
©Julie Bochese

Creepy Animals Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

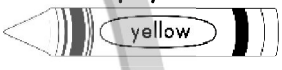
1. Which best describes the aye-aye's physical appearance? 

   a. A mix of a squirrel and bat with small ears and huge eyes.
   b. A mix of a squirrel and bat with big ears and small eyes.
   c. A mix of a squirrel and bat with big ears and huge eyes.
   d. A mix of a squirrel and bat with long claws only on its fingers.

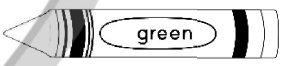
2. Describe how the color of the aye-aye's fur is unique. 

_____

_____

3. The aye-aye is a "solitary" animal. Use the information about communal animals to help you describe how the aye-aye might behave. 

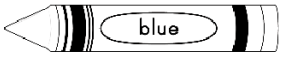
Communal Animals	Solidary Animals
• Social • Operate in a group or pack • Typically live around and in a community with other animals of their type • Often hunt together	

4. The word "cryptic" means mysterious. How does this help the reader understand the meaning of its coloration camouflage technique? 

_____

_____

_____

5. Describe the cause-and-effect relationship between the seasons and the aye-aye's diet. 

_____

_____

_____

©Julie Pochyla

USUALLY...BUT SOMETIMES

Complete the graphic organizer to show some of the ways the aye-aye changes during the seasons or adapts to its environment.

Usually	But Sometimes
Usually	But Sometimes
Usually	But Sometimes

©Julie Bochese

AYE-AYE RESPONSE

Imagine you are a member of a conservation group trying to protect the aye-aye from further danger. Write a paragraph to persuade others to help protect the animal. Use facts from the text to support your argument.

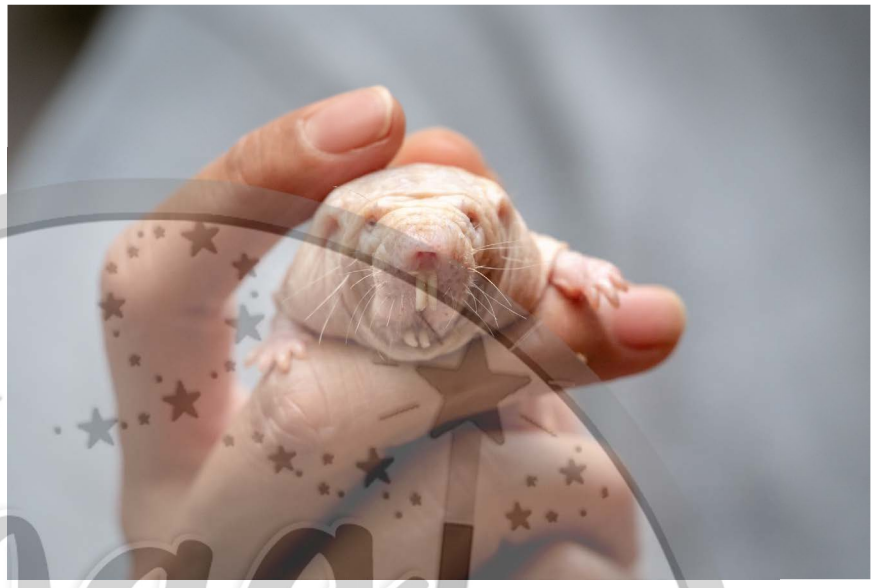
©Julio Barbosa

490L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Naked Mole Rat

The naked mole rat is an interesting creature. It lives underground. It creates its own underground world. No other mammal does this. It has adapted to underground life.



The naked mole rat is about 3 inches long and could fit in your hand.

The naked mole rat lives in east Africa. It digs its own burrow. It can be up to 3 meters deep. Up to 70-80 mole rats live together. They build underground tunnels. The tunnels connect. Each mole rat has a role in the colony. Workers dig and expand the tunnel system. Soldiers protect the colony from predators. Each colony has a queen. She gives everyone a task. This keeps everyone safe and successful.

The naked mole rat does not shiver or find shelter when it's cold. This makes it different from other mammals. It keeps its core temperature internally. It can change based on its environment. It can survive in ranging temperatures. It can survive well below freezing or up to 35 degrees Celsius. It doesn't have to change its behavior. It doesn't have to find different habitats.

The naked mole rat lives longer than other rodents. Some have lived for 28 years! It is immune to some cancers. It has special genes. Cancer doesn't spread in its body. It can survive with little to no oxygen. It can tolerate low levels of carbon dioxide for a long time. These conditions would be deadly for humans.

Scientists research naked mole rats. They help researchers learn about health issues like cancer and aging. We have more to learn from these animals!

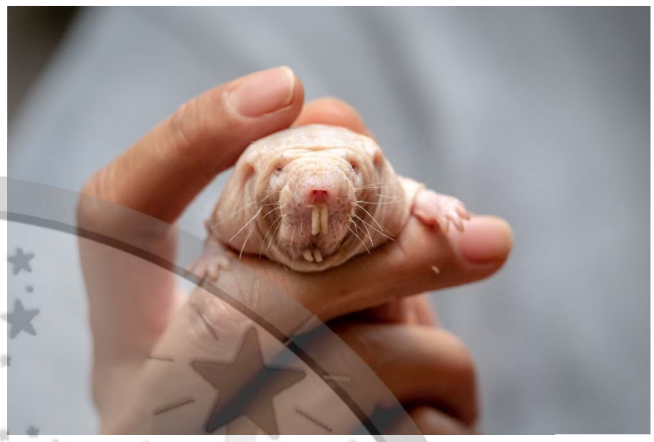
©Julia Bochoso

820L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Naked Mole Rat

The naked mole rat is an intriguing creature. It creates its own underground world. It is the only mammal known to live completely underground. It has adapted to underground life in unique ways.



The naked mole rat is about 3 inches long and could fit in your hand.

The naked mole rat is found in east African countries, specifically Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. It inhabits burrows up to 3 meters deep that it digs itself. A single colony may have 70-80 members. They build a network of tunnels and chambers. Each mole rat plays an important role within the colony. Workers are responsible for digging and expanding the tunnel system. Soldiers protect the colony from predators and intruders. The queen of each colony allocates tasks among its members. This ensures the safety and success of her subjects.

The naked mole rat does not regulate its body temperature through shivering or seeking shelter. This makes it different from other mammals. Instead, it maintains its core temperature internally. Its metabolic rate alters depending on environmental conditions. This allows it to survive in ranging temperatures. It can survive well below freezing or up to 35 degrees Celsius. It doesn't have to adjust its behavior or seek different habitats.

The naked mole rat has remarkable longevity compared to other rodents. Some have been known to live up to 28 years! It is immune to certain types of cancer. Its gene expression patterns prevent malignant cells from growing out of control. It has a high tolerance for oxygen deprivation. It can tolerate low levels of carbon dioxide over extended periods of time. Long exposure to these conditions would be deadly for humans.

The naked mole rat has been researched for years. Researchers want insight into human health issues such as cancer and aging. The naked mole rat has a unique physiology, making it great for research. It has been used to study the impact of altered gravity on bone density loss experienced by astronauts during missions in space. In short, this fascinating creature offers us a wealth of scientific potential that we are only beginning to explore!

©Julie Bochese

950L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Naked Mole Rat

The naked mole rat is an intriguing creature. It is the master of its own underground world. It is the only mammal known to live completely underground. It has adapted to underground life in unique ways.



The naked mole rat is about 3 inches long and could fit in your hand.

The naked mole rat is found primarily in east African countries, specifically Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya. It typically inhabits burrows up to 3 meters deep that it digs itself. A single colony may have 70-80 members living in the burrow. They have an intricate network of tunnels and chambers. Each mole rat plays an important role within the colony. Workers are responsible for digging and expanding the tunnel system. Soldiers protect the colony from predators and intruders. The queen of each colony generally allocates tasks amongst its members as needed in order to ensure the safety and success of her subjects.

The naked mole rat does not regulate its body temperature through external means such as shivering or seeking shelter. This makes it different from other mammals. Instead, it maintains its core temperature internally by altering its metabolic rate depending on environmental conditions. This allows it to survive in ranging temperatures. It can survive well below freezing up to 35 degrees Celsius without having to adjust its behavior or seek different habitats.

©Julie Bochorsi

The naked mole rat also has remarkable longevity compared to other rodents. Some have been known to live up to 28 years! It is immune to certain types of cancer. It has unusual gene expression patterns that prevent malignant cells from growing out of control. It displays a high tolerance for both oxygen deprivation and low levels of carbon dioxide. It can tolerate these over extended periods. These conditions would prove deadly for humans with prolonged exposure.



Unlike most other mammals, the naked mole rat cannot maintain a steady body temperature. It keeps warm by huddling with other naked mole rats and by basking in warmer shallow tunnels.

The naked mole rat has historically been studied by researchers. They look for insights into human health issues such as cancer and aging. The naked mole rat has a unique physiology, making it great for research. It has been a model organism to study the impact of altered gravity on bone density loss experienced by astronauts during missions in space. In short, this fascinating creature offers us a wealth of scientific potential that we are only beginning to explore!

©Julie Backus

Creepy Animals Name: _____ Date: _____

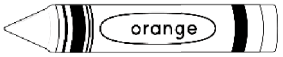
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What is the purpose of the queen in a naked mole rat colony?



   a. The queen is in charge of managing the food supply.
   b. She is the primary defender of the colony.
   c. She directs all her rats and assigns them responsibilities.
   d. She is solely there for breeding purposes.

2. How are the jobs of the soldier and worker mole rat different?



_____

_____

_____

3. Do you think this species would survive in a solitary lifestyle? Explain using evidence from the text.

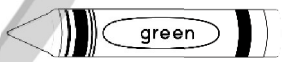


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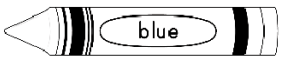
_____

4. What text structure does the author use in paragraph 3 to describe the naked mole rat's body temperature?



   a. Compare and contrast
   b. Problem and solution
   c. Question and answer
   d. Sequence

5. Describe why naked mole rats tend to live longer than other rodents.



_____

_____

_____

©Julie Bocturo

COMPARE & CONTRAST

Use the graphic organizer below to show how the naked mole rat is similar to and different from other mammals. Include at least 3 examples in each category.

Naked Mole Rat	Both	Other Mammals

MagiCORE

©Jo Boehnke

NAKED MOLE RAT RESPONSE

Summarize how naked mole rats are similar to and different from other mammals. Use your graphic organizer to help guide your writing. Use **at least 4** of the following words in your summary:

alike, unlike, similar, different, although, while, instead, the same as, as well as, both

©Julio Barbosa

480L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Goliath Tigerfish



The goliath tigerfish can weigh up to 110 pounds.

The goliath tigerfish is a strong predator. Few fish can match its scary looks. It is native to the Congo River Basin. It is an impressive species. It is a freshwater fish. Few other species in the world are similar. It can grow up to five feet long. It can weigh up to 110 pounds. That's about as heavy as a newborn calf!

The goliath tigerfish has a unique look. It is recognizable. It has unique fin patterns and stripes. These run down either side of its body. Its mouth has 32 sharp teeth. Each one is shaped like a razor blade. It has very powerful jaws. It can take on prey nearly twice its own size. It has even been known to attack humans. It only attacks when threatened.

Its hunting behavior is just as scary too. A goliath tigerfish sneaks up on its prey. It uses camouflage while hunting. It tries to blend its body into its environment. It lies in wait for prey. It waits for the right time to move. Then, it attacks with lightning speed and accuracy. It's an amazing sight to see.

©Julie Bachus

Even the most fearsome predators need to eat. So be careful if you ever find yourself near a goliath tigerfish. It has teeth that could tear through human flesh. It does all it can to survive in its environment. It is a scary animal. But it deserves our respect.

This giant predator mainly eats other fish. It loves crustaceans. These include crabs, crayfish, and shrimp. The goliath tigerfish also eats birds, turtles, frogs, and small mammals. It may eat a monkey if it comes across one in its habitat.

The goliath tigerfish is at the top of the food chain. This is based on the environment where it lives. It is not often preyed upon. Crocodiles have preyed on it. Humans may fish for it. It plays an important role in maintaining balance in its ecosystem. It controls populations of smaller fish species. It prevents the species from getting too large.



A goliath tigerfish's mouth is filled with 32 razor-sharp teeth.

The population of the goliath tigerfish has declined. This is due to overfishing. Pollution from human activities has not helped. This includes mining, logging, and agriculture. Now it is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. It needs extra protection. We want future generations to be able to appreciate it. They should benefit from the presence of the goliath tigerfish in our rivers and lakes.

The goliath tigerfish is an amazing species. It should be admired from afar. It is a unique-looking species. It has adaptations that have kept its species around. It maintains balance within its environment.

©Julie Bachus

780L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Goliath Tigerfish



The goliath tigerfish can weigh up to 110 pounds.

When it comes to fierce predators, few fish can match the goliath tigerfish. Its species is native to the Congo River Basin. This predator is one of the most impressive species of freshwater fish in the world. It can grow up to five feet long and weigh up to 110 pounds. That's about as heavy as a newborn calf!

A goliath tigerfish is instantly recognizable due to its appearance. It has distinctive fin patterns and stripes running down either side of its body. Its mouth is filled with 32 sharp teeth. Each one is shaped like a razor blade. Its powerful jaws can take on prey nearly twice its own size. It has even been known to attack humans if it feels threatened.

The goliath tigerfish's hunting behavior is just as scary as its appearance. It is an ambush predator. It uses its camouflaged body while hunting. It lies in wait for unsuspecting prey. Once it makes a move, it attacks with lightning speed and accuracy. It's an amazing sight to see as it takes place underwater.

©Julie Bachorz

Even the most fearsome predators need to eat. So be careful if you ever find yourself near a goliath tigerfish. It may have teeth that could tear through human flesh, but it's trying to survive in its environment. It may be intimidating, but like all creatures on this planet, it deserves our respect.

This giant predator mainly eats other fish. It loves crustaceans like crabs, crayfish, and shrimp. The goliath tigerfish also dines on birds, turtles, frogs, and even small mammals. It may eat a monkey if it comes across one in its habitat.

The goliath tigerfish is at the top of the food chain in its environment. As a result, it is not often preyed upon. Crocodiles have been known to prey on it. Humans may fish for it for food or sport. The goliath tigerfish plays an important role in maintaining balance in its ecosystem. It controls populations of smaller fish species. It prevents the species from getting too large.



A goliath tigerfish's mouth is filled with 32 razor-sharp teeth.

The population of goliath tigerfish has been declining in recent years. This is due to overfishing. It is also due to pollution caused by human activities such as mining, logging, and agriculture. As a result, these creatures are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. They need extra protection if we want future generations to be able to appreciate them. They should benefit from their presence in our rivers and lakes.

The goliath tigerfish is an amazing species. It should be admired from afar. It is a unique-looking species with adaptations that have kept its species around. It is important for maintaining balance within its environment!

©Pablo Bachoso

980L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Goliath Tigerfish



The goliath tigerfish can weigh up to 110 pounds.

When it comes to fierce predators, few fish can rival the goliath tigerfish. Native to the Congo River Basin, this predator is one of the most impressive species of freshwater fish in the world. It can grow up to five feet long and weigh up to 110 pounds. That's about as heavy as a newborn calf!

A goliath tigerfish is instantly recognizable due to its distinctive fin patterns and stripes running down either side of its body. Its mouth is filled with 32 sharp teeth. Each one is shaped like a razor blade, so watch out! Its powerful jaws can take on prey nearly twice its own size. In fact, it has even been known to attack humans if it feels threatened.

The goliath tigerfish's hunting behavior is just as scary as its appearance. The goliath tigerfish is an ambush predator, using its camouflaged body to lie in wait for unsuspecting prey. Once it makes a move, it attacks with lightning speed and deadly accuracy. It's an amazing sight to see as it takes place underwater.

©Julie Bochorsc

But even the most fearsome predators need to eat, so be careful if you ever find yourself near a goliath tigerfish. It may have teeth that could tear through human flesh, but at the end of the day, it's still just trying to survive in its wild environment. It may be intimidating, but like all creatures on this planet, it deserves our respect.

This giant predator mainly eats other fish. It also loves crustaceans like crabs, crayfish, and shrimp. The goliath tigerfish also enjoys dining on birds, turtles, frogs, and even small mammals. It may even eat a monkey if it comes across one in its habitat.

The goliath tigerfish is an apex predator in its environment. It is not often preyed upon. Crocodiles have been known to prey on it. Humans may fish for it for food or sport. This means that the goliath tigerfish plays an important role in maintaining balance in its ecosystem. It controls populations of smaller fish species and keeps them from getting too large.

The population of goliath tigerfish has been declining in recent years due to overfishing. It is also due to pollution caused by human activities such as mining, logging, and agriculture. As a result, these majestic creatures are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. They need extra protection if we want future generations to be able to appreciate them and benefit from their presence in our rivers and lakes.



A goliath tigerfish's mouth is filled with 32 razor-sharp teeth.

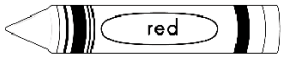
The goliath tigerfish is an amazing species that should be admired from afar. Not only because of how beautiful it is but also because of how important it is for maintaining balance within its environment!

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Creepy Animals Name: _____ Date: _____

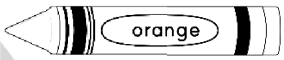
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. Which sentence shows the author used compare and contrast to describe the goliath tigerfish's size?

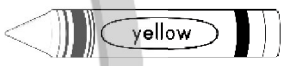


   a. Its powerful jaws can take on prey nearly twice its size.
   b. That's about as heavy as a newborn calf!
   c. It can grow up to five feet long.
   d. It can weigh up to 110 pounds.

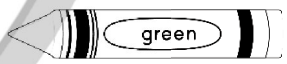
2. What is unique and potentially scary about the goliath tigerfish's hunting approach?



3. If the species were to go extinct, what impact would it have on the balance of the ecosystem?



4. Why is the goliath tigerfish deserving of respect?



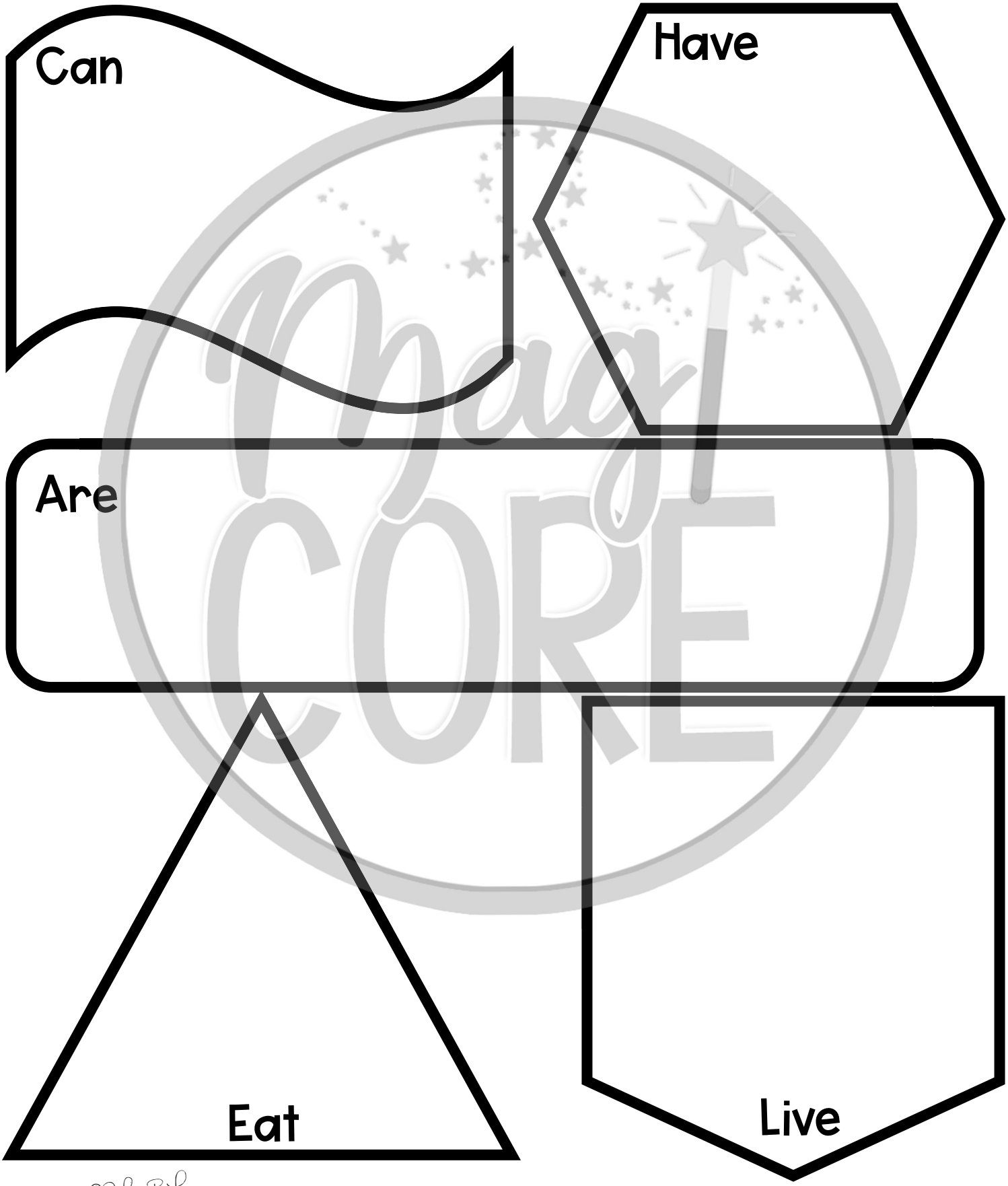
5. What is the purpose of putting the goliath tigerfish on the IUCN Red List?



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CAN, HAVE, ARE, EAT, LIVE

Complete the graphic organizer about the goliath tigerfish. Use the text to tell what they can do, what they have, what they look like, what they eat, and where they live.



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GOLIATH TIGERFISH RESPONSE

What is the general impression about the goliath tigerfish? Explain how the "look" of the goliath tigerfish may influence our perception of it. Use evidence from the text to support this perception. Is this perception well-founded? Why or why not?

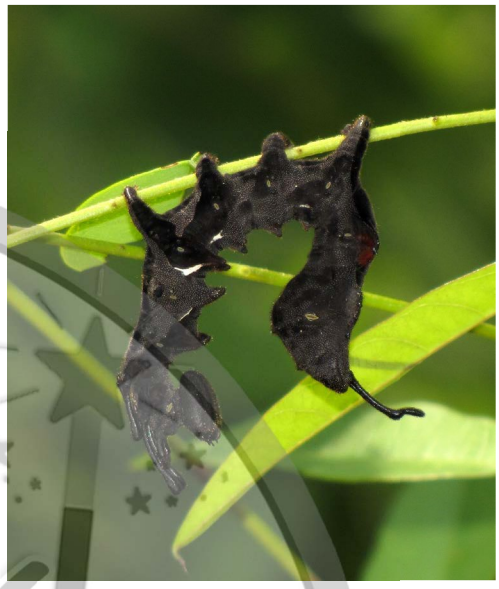
©Julio Barbosa

480L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lobster Moth Caterpillar

The lobster moth caterpillar is a neat animal! It has a bright orange and black striped body. It makes it look like a lobster or a shrimp. That's how it got its name. It spends most of its time in trees. It is often eating leaves and plants.



At first, the adult lobster moth caterpillar may look like decaying leaves (black color).

As this caterpillar grows into an adult, it has a transformation. It will become a beautiful winged adult. This is like all moths. Its body is no longer plump and colorful. Now, it is slim and grayish brown. It will have yellow spots along its back. These are on both sides.

Metamorphosis isn't the only thing that makes this caterpillar unique. It also uses defense mechanisms. Defense is used when danger is near. It protects itself from predators. When disturbed, it opens up its front legs. They now look like pincers. This scares off attackers. It has two small horns on the side of its head. These give off a bad odor. This nasty smell helps scare predators. They no longer want to prey on the caterpillar.

The lobster moth caterpillar has some unusual behaviors. During certain times of the year, large groups of them gather on tree trunks. They join together. They molt, or shed. They mate. These gatherings are special. They look like a painted wall on a tree. The orange and black colors look like artwork.

The lobster moth caterpillar eats leaves and bark. It eats apple, birch, and maple trees. It eats azalea flowers. It eats day and night. You may spot one eating during your next walk out in nature!

The lobster moth caterpillar is an amazing creature. Its body transforms. It has special ways to defend itself. You could see one outside in nature. Keep your eyes open for this little critter!

©Julie Bachorski

810L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lobster Moth Caterpillar

The lobster moth caterpillar is an incredible creature! It has a vibrant orange and black striped body. It looks like a lobster or a shrimp. That's how it received its name. The caterpillar spends most of its time in the trees eating leaves and foliage.



At first, the adult lobster moth caterpillar may look like decaying leaves (black color).

The lobster moth caterpillar will eventually become a beautiful winged adult. This makes it similar to all moths. As it develops into an adult, it undergoes an incredible transformation. Its body is no longer plump and colorful. Now, it will be slim and grayish brown. It will have a row of yellow spots along each side of its back.

This metamorphosis isn't the only thing that makes the lobster moth caterpillar unique. Another cool feature is that when threatened, it uses defense mechanisms. The animal can protect itself from predators. When disturbed, it opens up its front legs to look like pincers and scare off any attackers. It also has two small horns on either side of its head. These secrete a foul odor when disturbed. This nasty smell helps ward off predators. They no longer want to prey on the caterpillar.

The lobster moth caterpillar also has some unusual behaviors. During certain times of the year, lobster moth caterpillars may gather in large groups on tree trunks. They join in communal activities. These could include molting (shedding their skin) or mating. These gatherings are quite remarkable. They can sometimes be mistaken for an orange and black painted wall on a tree!

©Julie Bachorski



The lobster moth caterpillar chewing on bark from a deciduous tree.

The lobster moth caterpillar's diet is mainly leaves and bark. It snacks on deciduous trees. These include apple, birch, and maple trees. It is also known to feed on azalea blossoms if available. It feasts during both the day and night, so you may just spot one munching away during your next walk out in nature.

The lobster moth caterpillar is an intriguing creature. It has fascinating features such as its transformation process and defensive abilities. You may see one while you're out exploring nature. Keep your eyes peeled for this amazing little critter.

©Julie Backus

1010L

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Lobster Moth Caterpillar

The lobster moth caterpillar is an incredible creature! It has a vibrant orange and black striped body that looks like a lobster or a shrimp. That's how the animal received its name. The caterpillar spends most of its time in the trees eating leaves and foliage.



At first, the adult lobster moth caterpillar may look like decaying leaves (black color).

Like all moths, the lobster moth caterpillar will eventually become a beautiful winged adult. As it develops into an adult, this species undergoes an incredible transformation. Its body will change from plump and colorful to slim and grayish brown. It will have a row of yellow spots along each side of its back.

This unique metamorphosis isn't the only thing that makes the lobster moth caterpillar unique. Another cool feature is that when threatened, it has defense mechanisms to protect itself from potential predators. When disturbed, it opens up its front legs like pincers to scare off any attackers. It also has two small horns on either side of its head. These secrete a foul odor when disturbed. This unpleasant smell helps ward off predators who would otherwise try to eat it!

In addition to these defensive measures, the lobster moth caterpillar also has some unusual behaviors. During certain times of the year, lobster moth caterpillars may gather in large groups on tree trunks for communal activities. These could include molting (shedding their skin) or mating. These gatherings are quite remarkable and can sometimes be mistaken for an orange and black painted wall on a tree!

©Julie Bocturo



The lobster moth caterpillar chewing on bark from a deciduous tree.

The diet of the lobster moth caterpillar is mainly leaves and bark. It snacks on deciduous trees such as apple, birch, and maple. It is also known to feed on azalea blossoms if available. It feasts during both the day and night, so you may just spot one munching away during your next walk out in nature!

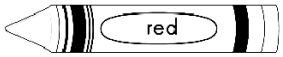
All in all, the lobster moth caterpillar is an intriguing creature with fascinating features such as its transformation process and defensive abilities. You may see one while you're out exploring nature. Keep your eyes peeled for this amazing little critter!

©Julie Backus

Creepy Animals Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated. If there is not a crayon next to the question, you will need to infer the answer. You should still look for text evidence to help you infer.

1. What is unique about the lobster moth's appearance? How did this influence its name?

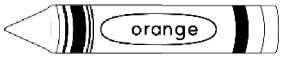


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_____

2. How is the caterpillar's transformation similar to all moths?



_____

_____

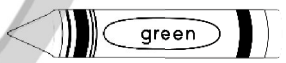
_____

3. What happens to the two small horns on a lobster moth caterpillar's head when disturbed?



a. They poke further out of its head.
b. They serve as pincers to scare off attackers.
c. They give off a nasty smell.
d. They turn from bright orange to black.

4. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your thinking.
"Lobster moth caterpillars have a big appetite."

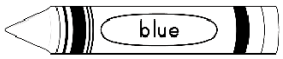


Agree or disagree?

_____

Evidence from the text:

5. Why do the creatures gather in large groups on tree trunks?



_____

_____

_____

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5 SENSES GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Use the 5 senses to describe what you experience when you discover a lobster moth caterpillar in the wild.

Taste



Touch



See



Smell



Hear



©Julia Bachosa

LOBSTER MOTH CATERPILLAR RESPONSE

Imagine you're walking in nature and discover an orange and black painted wall on a tree. Describe what you see and what you now know the lobster moth caterpillars are doing. Use the sensory details from your graphic organizer to guide your writing.

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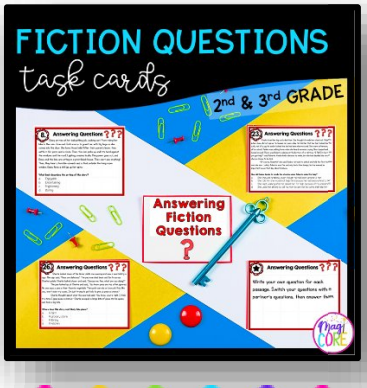
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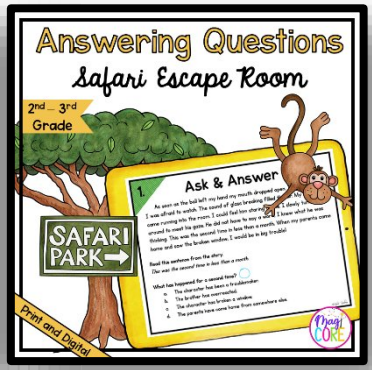
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Talking with Rebecca

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