

Text Detective

weird animals

2nd
GRADE

HUMPBACK ANGLERFISH



It has a lantern that grows from the top of its head to attract prey.

It has tiny fins for swimming very slowly: because of its attractive lantern, it doesn't need to be fast to catch prey.

It has long, sharp teeth for eating other creatures twice its own size.

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Certificate of Completion

Fact or Opinion?

The Basking Shark and More

Read each sentence below and decide if it's a fact or an opinion.
Circle your answer.

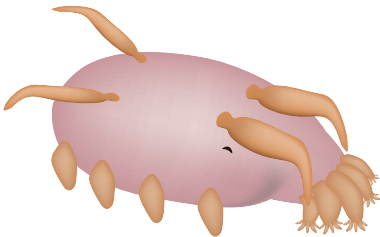


1. The tube-nosed fruit bat helps new plants to grow by spreading seeds in its poop!

FACT **OPINION**

2. The tube-nosed fruit bat's bugging eyes and pointy ears make it look like an alien.

FACT **OPINION**



3. The Cthulhu Larvae travel in groups of 300 to 600 and eat mud.

FACT **OPINION**

4. A nickname for the Cthulhu Larvae is sea pig.

FACT **OPINION**



5. It would be terrifying to encounter a wolf fish.

FACT **OPINION**

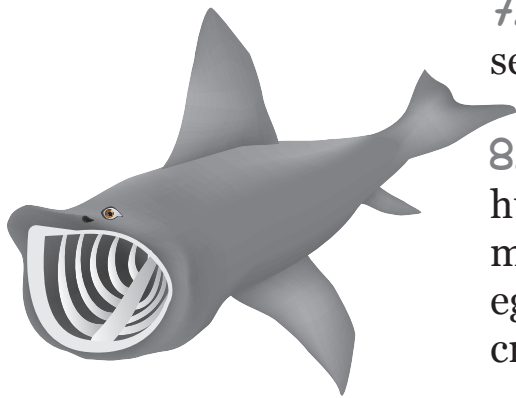
6. Sometimes, a wolf fish will jump out of the water and onto the shore to attack its prey.

FACT **OPINION**

Fact or Opinion?

The Basking Shark and More

Read each sentence below and decide if it's a fact or an opinion.
Circle your answer.



7. The basking shark is the second-largest fish on the planet.

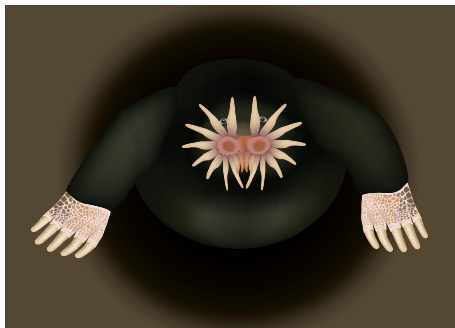
FACT

OPINION

8. The basking shark is harmless to humans and swims slowly with their mouths open to catch plankton, fish eggs, larvae, and other small sea creatures.

FACT

OPINION



9. Even though it looks scary, the star nosed mole is my favorite animal.

FACT

OPINION

10. This mole's sensitive nose can pick up tiny vibrations in the ground.

FACT

OPINION

Fact or Opinion?

The Blobfish and More

Read each sentence below and decide if it's a fact or an opinion.
Circle your answer.



1. The blobfish is made of a jelly-like substance and has almost no muscles.

FACT

OPINION

2. It's awful that the blobfish is endangered because of harmful fishing trawlers.

FACT

OPINION



3. If you see an aye-aye, that's a sign that something bad will happen to you.

FACT

OPINION

4. The aye-aye is a superstitious symbol of death to the people of Madagascar.

FACT

OPINION



5. The barking spider doesn't really bark, but its bite does cause several hours of vomiting.

FACT

OPINION

6. The barking spider is a type of tarantula and typically catches insects in addition to lizards, frogs, and small birds.

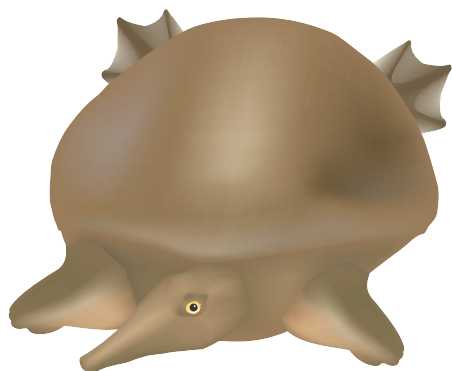
FACT

OPINION

Fact or Opinion?

The Blobfish and More

Read each sentence below and decide if it's a fact or an opinion.
Circle your answer.



7. The Cantor's giant soft-shelled turtle is able to extend its neck incredibly fast.

FACT **OPINION**

8. People should make a big effort to help the endangered soft-shelled turtle survive.

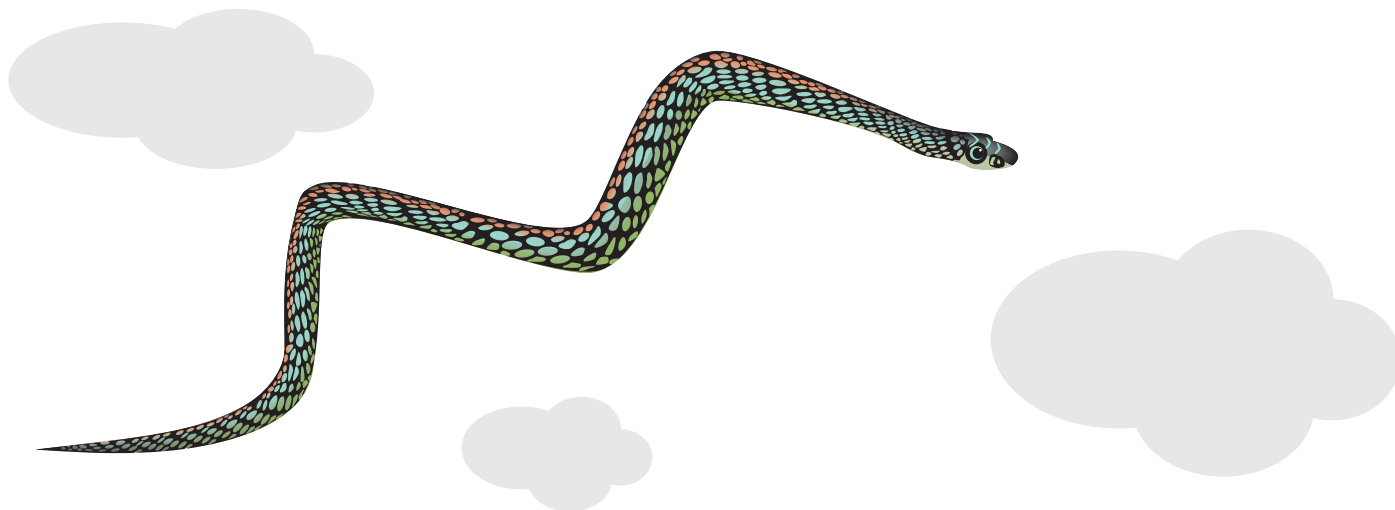
FACT **OPINION**

9. The flying snake sounds like a mythological creature.

FACT **OPINION**

10. The flying snake is likely someone's worst nightmare.

FACT **OPINION**

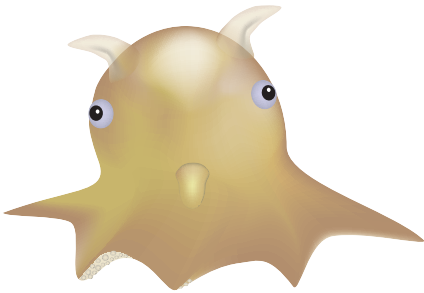


Answers: 1. F; 2. O; 3. O; 4. F; 5. F; 6. F; 7. F; 8. O; 9. O; 10. O

Fact or Opinion?

The Dumbo Octopus and More

Read each sentence below and decide if it's a fact or an opinion.
Circle your answer.



1. The Dumbo octopus is the cutest sea creature.

FACT

OPINION

2. The Dumbo octopus uses its ear-like flaps to help him swim around in the ocean.

FACT

OPINION

3. The Dumbo octopus hovers at the very bottom of the ocean, slightly above the seafloor.

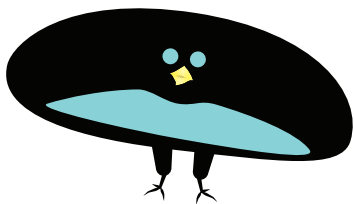
FACT

OPINION

4. It would be so cool to touch a Dumbo octopus.

FACT

OPINION



5. The Superb bird of paradise uses its impressive feathers to court female birds.

FACT

OPINION

6. I would be scared of the male Superb bird of paradise.

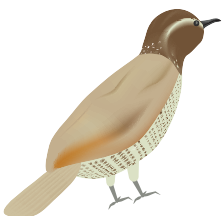
FACT

OPINION

7. The Superb bird of paradise reminds me of a cartoon.

FACT

OPINION



8. The Superb bird of paradise also dances for the female bird to get her attention.

FACT

OPINION

Facts and Opinions:

Goliath Birdeater

Janet went on vacation and saw something terrifying. She wrote about it in her journal. Underline sentences that are facts in black. Underline sentences that are opinions in orange.

I think South America has the scariest spiders ever! While hiking yesterday, I saw a huge spider that was black and furry. Mom told me that it's a Goliath birdeater, one of the largest spiders in the world. It is a type of tarantula and lives in the rainforests of South America. It got its name when a scientist saw it eating a hummingbird. I'm glad I didn't see it eating anything! It is harmless to humans, just like most other tarantulas. Their sting is only a little bit poisonous to humans. I'm relieved that Goliath birdeaters only live in South America. It'll be cool to tell all my friends back home about seeing this giant spider.

Write a sentence about your opinion of the Goliath birdeater.

Pictures Have a Lot to Say

The earth is full of strange animals. The aye-aye, for example, is a funny-looking creature. You can learn a lot about an animal just by looking at its picture.

Example: Aye-aye

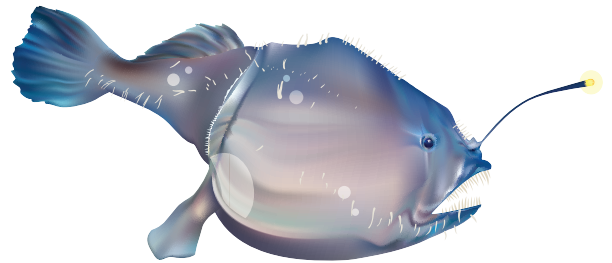


Large ears to listen for echoes when tapping on tree trunks. (That helps it to find insect larvae.)

Very long middle finger to tap on tree trunks and pull out the insect larvae inside to eat.

Long, bushy tail for balance when climbing trees.

What about this odd-looking creature? Try to answer the questions below by studying its picture. Then, check out the answer sheet to learn more.



1. What type of creature is this: mammal, fish, reptile, or bird?

2. Does it live on land or in the sea?

3. Do you think it is a carnivore or herbivore?

Pictures Have a Lot to Say #2

What can you tell about an animal just by looking at the picture?

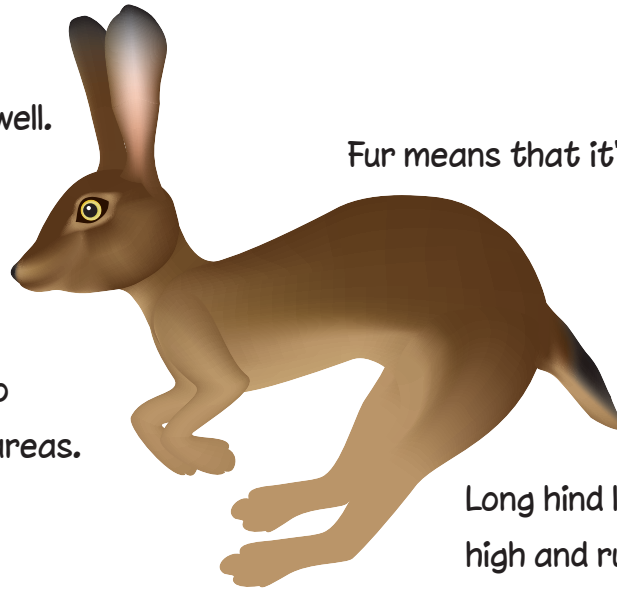
Example: Jack Rabbit

Big, pointy ears to hear very well.

Fur means that it's a mammal.

Small, slender body to
easily hide in grassy areas.

Long hind legs to jump very
high and run away from
predators very fast.



Try to guess some things about this
cute little creature. What can you tell
about this animal just by looking at it?



1. What type of creature is this: mammal, fish, reptile, or bird?

2. Why do you think its ears are so large?

3. Why do you think it has such long legs and tail?

With and Without a Picture:

Narwhal

Narwhals are rare, medium-sized whales found in the Arctic Ocean. They eat shrimp, squid, and fish. Although they usually move slowly, they can be very fast when chased by predators. Their natural predators include polar bears and orcas (also called killer whales). They are capable of diving 5,000 feet beneath the surface of the ocean. They travel in groups of 10 to 20, called pods. They can communicate with each other using sounds like squeals and clicks. In summers, narwhals move closer to shore. In winters, they are farther out to sea and live under ice.

Show what you know. Write down three facts that you learned about narwhals.

1.

2.

3.

With and Without a Picture:

Narwhal (Part 2)

Narwhals are rare, medium-sized whales found in the Arctic Ocean. They eat shrimp, squid, and fish. Although they usually move slowly, they can be very fast when chased by predators. Their natural predators include polar bears and orcas (also called killer whales). They are capable of diving 5,000 feet beneath the surface of the ocean. They travel in groups of 10 to 20, called pods. They can communicate with each other using sounds like squeals and clicks. In summers, narwhals move closer to shore. In winters, they are farther out to sea and live under ice.



Write two things that you learned from the picture.

1.

2.

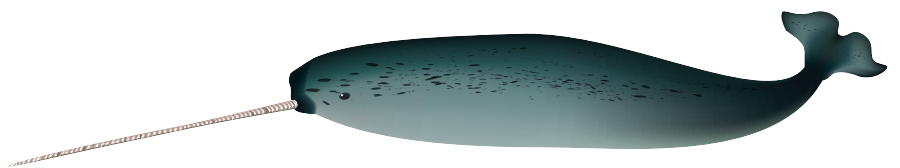
With and Without a Picture:

Narwhal (Part 3)

How does having a picture with the text change what you know about the animal?

The narwhal is called “the unicorn of the ocean” because of the large tusk on its face. The tusk is actually a tooth and can grow up to nine feet long! Only the male narwhals have this spiral tooth. Sometimes, they clash their tusks against each other. Scientists guess that they do this as a way to fight, communicate, or impress female narwhals. Scientists aren’t really sure why they have this tooth!

Write your own opinion on why male narwhals have a long tusk.



With and Without a Picture:

Olm

The olm is a blind salamander found in European caves. It lives underwater in complete darkness. Unlike other salamanders, it never leaves the water. Instead, it remains underwater at all times and swims like an eel. Because it can't see, it has an incredible sense of smell, taste, and touch. It can feel sound waves in the water and vibrations in the ground. It eats small crabs, snails, and insects. Food can be scarce in a cave, but the olm can eat large amounts of food at a time and then store all the nutrients for later. It can go for as long as 10 years without food! It can live for more than 58 years.

Show what you know. Write down three facts about the olm that you learned in this paragraph.

1.

2.

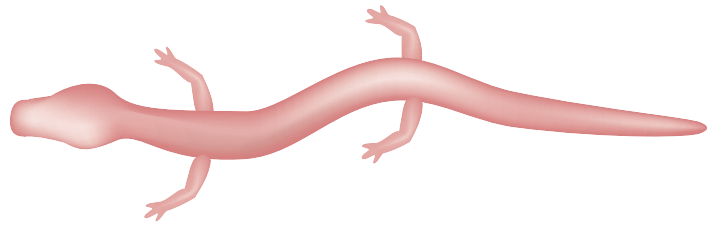
3.

With and Without a Picture:

Olm (Part 2)

The olm is a blind salamander found in European caves. It lives underwater in complete darkness. Unlike other salamanders, it never leaves the water. Instead, it remains underwater at all times and swims like an eel. Because it can't see, it has an incredible sense of smell, taste, and touch. It can feel sound waves in the water and vibrations in the ground. It eats small crabs, snails, and insects. Food can be scarce in a cave, but the olm can eat large amounts of food at a time and then store all the nutrients for later. It can go for as long as 10 years without food! It can live for more than 58 years.

Write two things that you learned from the picture.



1.

2.

When you read about the olm, did you imagine it to look like it does in this picture?

Your Favorite Animal

Pick your favorite animal and learn more about it! With a grown-up, go online or to your local library to find some facts about your favorite animal.

Write your opinion:

The _____ is my favorite animal
because _____

Write 3 facts you learned about your favorite animal.

1.

2.

3.

Draw a picture of the animal that shows the 3 facts above.

Your Favorite Animal

Pick your favorite animal and learn more about it! With a grown-up, go online or to your local library to find some facts about your favorite animal.

Write your opinion:

The _____ is my favorite animal
because _____

Write 3 facts you learned about your favorite animal.

1.

2.

3.

Draw a picture of the animal that shows the 3 facts above.

Compare and Contrast: Main Ideas



The platypus is an unusual animal. A platypus has webbed feet and bill, like a duck. Its tail resembles that of a beaver. Its body resembles that of an otter. Males are bigger than females and have sharp, venomous stingers on the heels of their rear feet. The platypus hunts for food underwater. It uses its webbed feet and tail to move around in the water. It eats larvae, insects, shellfish, and worms. Other than being a combination of three different animals, the platypus is one of the only two mammals that lays eggs! (The other is the echidna.) Mammals usually give birth while other animals, such as reptiles and birds, lay eggs. They are commonly found living in the rivers of eastern Australia. They are mainly nocturnal animals, but they can be seen either at night or very early in the morning.

Compare and Contrast: Main Ideas

What is the main idea of this passage? Write your answer in a complete sentence.

List two important details that support the main idea.

1.

2.

Compare and Contrast: Main Ideas

I was fishing very early one morning when I saw something strange. At first, I saw a beaver in the water. I saw its tail as it dove into the water. I didn't think much of it. Then, I saw a duck coming up from the same spot where I saw the beaver. Its duck bill stuck out of the water. As it began to bring its little head out of the water, I saw that it had fur, not feathers! I rubbed my chin and scratched my head. This was the weirdest duck I had ever seen. The sun wasn't fully out yet, so it was a bit dark. I thought maybe it was a beaver after all and my eyes were playing tricks on me. When it stepped out of the water, I saw that it definitely had a bill and even webbed feet like a duck. But then I saw it had four feet instead of two! Its body didn't look like any duck I had ever seen. It was all furry, and it had the same beaver tail I spotted earlier. I wanted to get a closer look, but it quickly burrowed into its home in the ground.

What is the main idea of this passage? Write your answer in a complete sentence.

List two important details that support the main idea.

1.

2.

Compare and Contrast: Main Ideas

Do you think these two passages are talking about the same animal? Why or why not?



