



Adult Teaching Suggestions

We hope you find these Pre-Key Stage Standard suggestions useful. Please be aware that the suggestions and resources mentioned are potential ways to check understanding relating to the relevant strands. Other resources may be needed in addition to those suggested.

Strand D – Word Reading

In age-appropriate books, the pupil can read most words accurately without overt sounding and blending, and sufficiently fluently to allow them to focus on their understanding rather than on decoding individual words.

Note: Teachers should compare the books that their pupils read with those provided for the key stage 1 reading test developed by the STA. The sources for the reading test are listed in the copyright acknowledgements in published key stage 1 test materials.

Some pupils need to read faster than others to understand what they are reading but, as a guide, approximately 90 words per minute is a good indicator of sufficient fluency for a pupil learning to read.

Task

Activity One – Reading Book

Listen to pupils as they read their school reading book aloud. Check for accuracy and fluency, making a note of anything that they particularly find difficult.



Activity Two – Traditional Tales

[redacted] and ask pupils to read it to you aloud. Listen and check for accuracy and fluency, making a note of anything that they particularly find difficult.



Activity Three – Non-Fiction

[redacted] in the [redacted] and ask pupils to read it to you aloud. Listen and check for accuracy and fluency, making a note of anything that they particularly find difficult.



Barn Owls



Some barn owls are nocturnal but also they can be seen at sunset or early morning. They have a white, heart-shaped face and a white chest with small brown spots. Their back is tawny, marked with black and white spots. They are a similar size to a small cat.



Fascinating Facts

Barn owls make a screeching noise, not a hoot like the tawny owl.

Baby owls are called owlets.

Where Do They Live?

Barn owls live in a range of habitats including farm buildings, dovecotes, church towers, hollow trees and cliff sites. Some owls prefer to live in the open grasslands, farmlands and woodlands that are no more than 2,000 metres high. Some of these species are also found along the edges of woods.

What Do They Eat?

Barn owls eat mainly small mammals like voles, shrews, rats and mice. Sometimes they eat birds, insects and even frogs. On average, a wild barn owl eats about 4 small mammals per night, that's 1,460 per year.

Staying Safe

If they feel threatened, they will squint their eyes, spread their wings and sway their head back and forth, while hissing. If this does not stop their attacker, the barn owl will lie on its back and protect itself with its sharp talons.

Questions about...

Barn Owls



Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What does a barn owl look like?

2. Where do barn owls live?

3. What do barn owls eat?

4. What do they do if they feel threatened?

5. What sound do they make?

6. What is a baby barn owl called?

Butterfly Life Cycle

Butterflies have a complete life cycle with four separate stages.

1



What happens during the first stage?

The new butterfly starts life as a very small egg on a leaf. Eggs can be round, oval or cylindrical and some are ribbed.

2



What happens during the second stage?

A caterpillar (or larva) hatches. They have patterns, stripes or patches and are sometimes hairy. The caterpillar needs to eat lots to grow.

3



What happens during the third stage?

The caterpillar forms a chrysalis (or pupa). It is usually brown or green. The caterpillar starts to grow wings.

4



What happens during the fourth stage?

It is now an adult and usually learns to fly in 3 or 4 hours. The adults also mate and the female butterflies lay eggs, beginning the life cycle again.

Questions about the Butterfly Cycle

First Stage

1. What does the new butterfly start life as?

2. The eggs can be round, and what else?

Second Stage

3. What hatches in the second stage?

4. What does the caterpillar need to do?

Third Stage

5. What colour is the chrysalis (or pupa)?

6. What does the caterpillar start to grow?

Fourth Stage

7. What is it now?

8. How long does it usually take the butterfly to learn how to fly?

Questions about the Butterfly Cycle

Answers

1. What does the new butterfly start life as?

The new butterfly starts life as a very small egg on a leaf.

2. The eggs can be round and what else?

Eggs can be round, oval or cylindrical and some are ribbed.

3. What hatches in the second stage?

A caterpillar (or larva) hatches.

4. What does the caterpillar need to do?

The caterpillar needs to eat lots to grow.

5. What colour is the chrysalis (or pupa)?

It is usually brown or green.

6. What does the caterpillar start to grow?

It starts to grow wings.

7. What is it now?

It is now an adult butterfly.

8. How long does it usually take the butterfly to learn how to fly?

It usually learns to fly in 3 or 4 hours.

Butterfly Life Cycle

Butterflies and moths are advanced insects, because they go through a complete metamorphosis. This means that they change completely. They have a life cycle with four separate stages.

1



What happens during the first stage?

During the first stage of the butterfly life cycle, the female butterfly lays her eggs, most often onto a leaf. The new butterfly starts life as a very small egg. They can be round, oval or cylindrical and some are ribbed.

2



What happens during the second stage?

During the second stage, a caterpillar (or larva) hatches. It is the long, worm-like stage of the butterfly life cycle. Most caterpillars have patterns, stripes or patches and sometimes spine-like hairs. In this stage, the caterpillar needs to eat lots to grow. As it gets bigger, it sheds its skin four or more times.

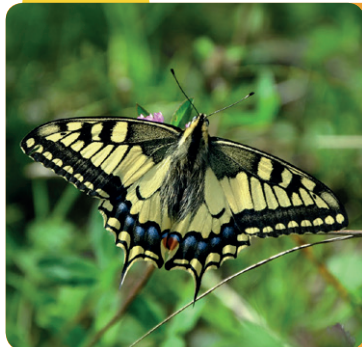
3



What happens during the third stage?

During the third stage, the caterpillar forms a chrysalis (or pupa) which is usually brown or green so it is camouflaged. This is the transformation stage, when it starts to grow wings.

4



What happens during the fourth stage?

The caterpillar changes into a colourful adult butterfly. When it first emerges, its wings are soft and folded against its body because it had to fit inside the pupa. The butterfly rests and then blood pumps into its wings and they start working and flapping. The butterfly usually learns to fly in 3 or 4 hours. The adults also mate and the female butterflies lay eggs, beginning the life cycle again.

Questions about the Butterfly Cycle

1. How many stages are there in a butterfly's life cycle?

2. What shape can the butterfly eggs be?

3. What hatches in the second stage?

4. What do caterpillars look like?

5. What happens to the caterpillar's skin?

6. What colour is the chrysalis (or pupa)?

7. What does it grow during the pupa stage, before it becomes a butterfly?

8. What does the caterpillar change into?

9. How long does it usually take the butterfly to learn how to fly?

Questions About the Butterfly Cycle

Answers

1. How many stages are there in a butterfly's life cycle?

They have four separate stages.

2. What shape can the butterfly eggs be?

They can be round, oval or cylindrical and some are ribbed.

3. What hatches in the second stage?

During the second stage, a caterpillar (or larva) hatches.

4. What do caterpillars look like?

Most caterpillars have patterns, stripes or patches and sometimes spine-like hairs.

5. What happens to the caterpillar's skin?

As it gets bigger, it sheds its skin four or more times.

6. What colour is the chrysalis (or pupa)?

A chrysalis (or pupa) is usually brown or green.

7. What does it grow during the pupa stage, before it becomes a butterfly?

It starts to grow wings.

8. What does the caterpillar change into?

The chrysalis changes into a colourful adult butterfly.

9. How long does it usually take the butterfly to learn how to fly?

The butterfly usually learns to fly in 3 or 4 hours.

Butterfly Life Cycle

Butterflies and moths are advanced insects, because they go through a complete metamorphosis. This means that they change completely. They have a complete life cycle with four separate stages. Each stage is different and happens for a reason.



1

What happens during the first stage?

During the first stage of the butterfly life cycle, the female butterfly lays her eggs onto a leaf, stem or another object. The new butterfly starts life as a very small egg. The eggs can be round, oval or cylindrical and some are ribbed. The shape depends on the type of butterfly that has laid the egg. If you look really closely, you can actually see the caterpillar growing inside the egg.



2

What happens during the second stage?

During the second stage, a caterpillar (or larva) hatches. It is the long, worm-like stage of the butterfly life cycle. Most caterpillars have interesting patterns, stripes or patches and sometimes spine-like hairs. In this stage, the caterpillar needs to eat lots to grow. The caterpillar usually starts by eating the leaf they were born onto. They do not stay in this stage for long. As it gets bigger, the caterpillar sheds its skin four or more times.



3

What happens during the third stage?

During the third stage, the caterpillar forms a chrysalis (or pupa) which is usually brown or green so it is camouflaged. Many hibernate during the winter at this stage. This is the transformation stage, when the caterpillar tissues are broken down and the adult's insect structures are formed, including growing wings. From the outside, it can look like it is just resting, but inside the pupa, it is changing rapidly as the metamorphosis happens.



4

What happens during the fourth stage?

The caterpillar transforms into a colourful adult butterfly. When it first emerges, its wings are soft and folded against its body because it had to fit inside the pupa. The butterfly rests and then blood pumps into its wings and they start working and flapping. The butterfly usually learns to fly in 3 or 4 hours. This is the reproductive and active stage. This is usually when the adult butterfly migrates or moves to a new habitat. The adults also mate and the female butterflies lay eggs, beginning the life cycle again.

Questions about the Butterfly Cycle

1. Why are butterflies advanced insects?

2. What shape can the butterfly egg be and what does it depend on?

3. What can you see inside the egg if you look really closely?

4. What does the caterpillar need to do in the second stage?

5. What happens to the caterpillar's skin?

6. What happens during the caterpillar's transformation?

7. What can it look like the caterpillar is doing from outside the pupa and what is happening inside?

8. What is the fourth stage of the butterfly life cycle called and where does the butterfly go?

9. What are the wings like when the butterfly first emerges and why?

10. What does the butterfly usually learn to do in 3 or 4 hours?

Questions about the Butterfly Cycle

Answers

1. Why are butterflies advanced insects?

Butterflies are advanced insects because they go through a complete metamorphosis.

2. What shape can the butterfly egg be and what does it depend on?

They can be round, oval or cylindrical and some are ribbed. The shape depends on the type of butterfly that laid the egg.

3. What can you see inside the egg if you look really closely?

If you look really closely, you can actually see the caterpillar growing inside the egg.

4. What does the caterpillar need to do in the second stage?

In this stage, the caterpillar needs to eat lots to grow.

5. What happens to the caterpillar's skin?

As it gets bigger, it sheds its skin four or more times.

6. What happens during the caterpillar's transformation?

This is the transformation stage, when the caterpillar tissues are broken down and the adult's insect structures are formed, including growing wings.

7. What can it look like the caterpillar is doing from outside the pupa and what is happening inside?

From the outside, it can look like it is just resting, but inside the pupa, it is changing rapidly as the metamorphosis happens.

8. What is the fourth stage of the butterfly life cycle called and where does the butterfly go?

The fourth stage is called the adult butterfly stage. This is usually when the adult butterfly migrates or moves to a new habitat.

9. What are the wings like when the butterfly first emerges and why?

When it first emerges, its wings are soft and folded against its body because it had to fit inside the pupa.

10. What does the butterfly usually learn to do in 3 or 4 hours?

The butterfly usually learns to fly in 3 or 4 hours.

Butterflies



Butterflies are some of the most interesting insects in the world. There are over seventeen thousand different species worldwide.



Fascinating Facts

A butterfly's life cycle is made up of four parts.

1. The female butterfly lays her egg on a leaf.
 2. The egg hatches and a caterpillar comes out. It lives and eats on the leaf where it was born and will shed its skin many times.
 3. When the caterpillar has grown much bigger, it creates a chrysalis.
 4. Inside the chrysalis the caterpillar turns into a butterfly, the chrysalis breaks open and a butterfly comes out.
- Butterflies can live for between 2 days and 11 months.

Where Do They Live?

Butterflies live in lots of different places depending on what season it is. They like to live in warm places and can be found in many countries around the world. Butterflies tend to live where they can find food. They are awake during the day looking for food and at night they may be found on the underside of a leaf or tucked away in a crevice in a rock.

What Do They Eat?

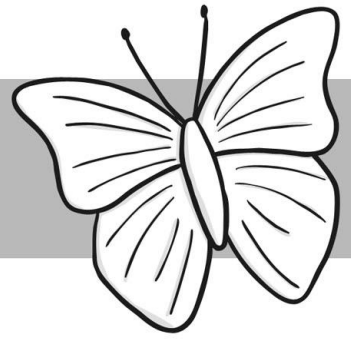
Butterflies get all of the food they need by drinking. They have a long, thin tube in their mouth called a proboscis, which they use like a straw to suck up their food. Adult butterflies eat all sorts of things, such as juices from oranges and watermelons. They also eat nectar from different types of flowers and water.

Staying Safe

Some types of butterflies have eye spots on their wings. If a predator comes near they flutter their wings, showing their eye spots, which scares the predator away. Some butterflies taste horrible and bright colours usually warn other animals of this.

Questions about...

Butterflies



Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Where do butterflies live?

2. When are butterflies awake?

3. What do they like to eat?

4. How do they eat their food?

5. How do butterflies stay safe?

6. What does a caterpillar do before it turns into a butterfly?

7. How long can butterflies live for?

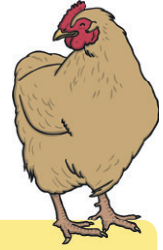
Chicken Life Cycle

Chickens are the most common bird on earth.

Chickens live in groups called flocks.

There are about 60 breeds.

Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits, vegetables, and lots more.



1

What happens during the first stage of the chicken life cycle?

Egg

The hen lays an egg.

Chicken eggs can be brown, white, blue, bluish green and pink.

Only if the egg is fertilized by a cockerel, can it become a chick.

The hen keeps the eggs warm by sitting on them.



2

What happens during the second stage of the chicken life cycle?

Chick

Baby chickens are called chicks.

The chick hatches from an egg.

It pecks a hole in the shell with its egg tooth.

They are covered with tiny, soft, fluffy feathers called down to keep them warm.



3

What happens during the third stage of the chicken life cycle?

Hen or Cockerel

The chick grows up and changes over time into a chicken.

Chickens can live between 10 and 15 years.

Chickens are raised for their meat and eggs.

Female chickens are called hens and male chickens are called cockerels.

Cockerels are bigger and more colourful than the hens. They do a little dance to impress the hens.

Hens can lay around 300 eggs every year.

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What are the groups that chickens live in called?

2. How many breeds of chicken are there?

3. Name 2 things that chickens eat.

4. What colour can eggs be?

5. How do hens keep the eggs warm?

6. What are baby chickens called?

7. What does the chick do with its egg tooth?

8. How long do chickens live?

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answers

1. What are the groups that chickens live in called?

Chickens live in groups called flocks.

2. How many breeds of chicken are there?

There are about 60 breeds.

3. Name 2 things that chickens eat.

**Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits and vegetables.
(Accept any two.)**

4. What colour can eggs be?

Chicken eggs can be brown, white, blue, bluish green and pink.

5. How do hens keep the eggs warm?

The hen keeps the eggs warm by sitting on them.

6. What are baby chickens called?

Baby chickens are called chicks.

7. What does the chick do with its egg tooth?

It pecks a hole in the shell with its egg tooth.

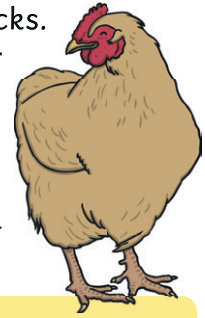
8. How long do chickens live?

Chickens can live between 10 and 15 years.

Chicken Life Cycle

Chickens are the most common bird on earth. There are about 60 different breeds. Chickens like to live in a group and the groups are called flocks. Each flock has some chicks, some hens and a rooster. Chickens make over 30 chicken sounds!

Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits, vegetables, and lots more. Chickens don't have teeth; they swallow their food whole into a part of their stomach called the gizzard that has tiny stones in it, which help to grind up their food.



What happens during the first stage of the chicken life cycle?

Egg

The hen lays an egg - they can do this without cockerels. The unfertilized eggs are what humans bake cakes and other foods with and eat cooked as boiled, fried, poached or scrambled eggs. Only if the egg is fertilized by a cockerel, can it become a chick. Chickens lay more eggs when its warmer. Chicken eggs can be brown, white, blue, bluish green and pink. The hen incubates the eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm.



What happens during the second stage of the chicken life cycle?

Chick

Baby chickens are called chicks. The chick starts its life by hatching from an egg when it is ready. It pecks a hole in the shell with a bump on its beak called an egg tooth. When the chicks first hatch, they are covered with tiny, soft, fluffy feathers called down, but they are wet at first. Down feathers keep them warm.



What happens during the third stage of the chicken life cycle?

Hen or Cockerel

The chick grows up and changes over time into a chicken. Chickens can live between 10 and 15 years and are raised for their meat and eggs. Female chickens are called hens and male chickens are called cockerels. Cockerels are bigger and more colourful than the hens. They do a little dance to impress the hens. Cockerels protect the hens and the hens protect their chicks.

Hens are ready to lay their first eggs when they are around 6 months old. When the hen lays and incubates an egg, the chicken life cycle starts all over again! Hens can lay around 300 eggs every year.

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How many different breeds of chicken are there?

2. Name two things that chickens eat.

3. Which part of their stomach has stones in it? What does it do?

4. What colour can eggs be?

5. Name 3 types of cooked eggs.

6. How does the hen incubate the egg?

7. What is the chick's egg tooth for?

8. What are the chick's feathers like? What are they for?

9. What do cockerels do to impress hens?

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answers

1. How many different breeds of chicken are there?

There are about 60 different breeds.

2. Name two things that chickens eat.

**Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits and vegetables.
(Accept any two.)**

3. Which part of their stomach has stones in it? What does it do?

A part of their stomach called the 'gizzard' has tiny stones in it which help to grind up their food.

4. What colour can eggs be?

Chicken eggs can be brown, white, blue, bluish green and pink.

5. Name 3 types of cooked eggs.

**Humans eat cooked boiled, fried, poached and scrambled eggs.
(Accept any three.)**

6. How does the hen incubate the egg?

The hen incubates the eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm.

7. What is the chick's egg tooth for?

It uses its egg tooth to peck a hole in the shell.

8. What are the chick's feathers like? What are they for?

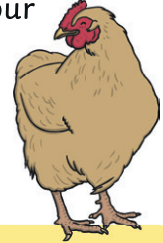
When the chicks first hatch they are covered with tiny, soft, fluffy feathers called down, but they are wet at first. Down feathers keep them warm.

9. What do cockerels do to impress hens?

They do a little dance to impress the hens.

Chicken Life Cycle

Chickens are the most common bird on earth. There are around 175 different varieties and about 60 different breeds of chicken. One popular breed is the Rhode Island Red. Chickens are very social animals and like to live as part of a group. Their groups are called flocks. Each flock has some chicks, hens and a rooster. Chickens have their own language of over 30 chicken sounds. Chickens have full colour vision and have dreams when they sleep, just like us! Chickens eat worms, insects, seeds, grains, fruits, vegetables, and lots more. Chickens don't have teeth; they swallow their food whole into a part of their stomach called the gizzard that has tiny stones in it, which help to grind up their food.



1



What happens during the first stage of the chicken life cycle?

Egg

The hen lays an egg; they can do this without cockerels. The unfertilized eggs are what humans bake cakes and other foods with and eat cooked as boiled, fried, poached or scrambled eggs. Only if the egg is fertilized by a cockerel, can it become a chick. Chickens lay more eggs when its warmer. Chicken eggs can be brown, white, blue, bluish green and pink. The hen incubates the eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm. The incubation period for a chicken egg is about 21 days. The yellow part inside the egg is the yolk, which gives the chick the food it needs to grow.



2



What happens during the second stage of the chicken life cycle?

Chick

Baby chickens are called chicks. The chick starts its life by hatching from an egg when it is ready. You may see cracks appear on the egg before the chick emerges. This can take a few days. It pecks a hole in the shell with a bump on its beak called an egg tooth. When the chicks first hatch, they are covered with tiny, soft, fluffy feathers called down, but they are wet at first. Down feathers keep them warm.



3



What happens during the third stage of the chicken life cycle?

Hen or Cockerel

The chick grows up and changes over time into a chicken. They grow bigger feathers called contour feathers to keep them warm, and flight feathers on their wings and tail. Female chickens are called hens and male chickens are called cockerels but are also known as roosters. Young hens are called pullets. Chickens can live between 10 and 15 years and are raised for their meat and eggs. Cockerels are bigger and more colourful than the hens. They do a little dance to impress the hens. Cockerels protect the hens and the hens protect their chicks. Cockerels have a comb on their head and two wattles under their neck. Hens are ready to lay their first eggs when they are around 6 months old. When the hen lays and incubates an egg, the chicken life cycle starts all over again! Hens can lay around 300 eggs every year.

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How many different varieties and breeds of chickens are there? Name a breed of chicken.

2. How do chickens eat and grind their food?

3. What can humans make with eggs?

4. Why do only some eggs become chicks?

5. How long is the incubation period? How does the hen incubate the egg?

6. How do chicks begin life? How do they get out of the egg?

7. What is different about the chicken's feathers compared to the chick's?

8. How do cockerels look and behave?

9. What are hens ready to do at 6 months old? How does the life cycle start again?

Questions about the Chicken Life Cycle

Answers

1. How many different varieties and breeds of chickens are there? Name a breed of chicken.

There are around 175 different varieties and about 60 different breeds of chicken. One popular breed is the Rhode Island Red.

2. How do chickens eat and grind their food?

Chickens don't have teeth; they swallow their food whole into a part of their stomach called the gizzard that has tiny stones in it which help to grind up food.

3. What can humans make with eggs?

The unfertilized eggs are what humans bake cakes and other foods with and eat cooked as boiled, fried, poached or scrambled eggs.

4. Why do only some eggs become chicks?

Only some eggs become chicks because it's only if the egg is fertilized by a cockerel that it can become a chick.

5. How long is the incubation period? How does the hen incubate the egg?

The hen incubates the eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm. The incubation period for a chicken egg is about 21 days.

6. How do chicks begin life? How do they get out of the egg?

The chick starts its life by hatching from an egg when it is ready. You may see cracks appear on the egg before the chick emerges. It pecks a hole in the shell with a bump on its beak called an egg tooth.

7. What is different about the chicken's feathers compared to the chick's?

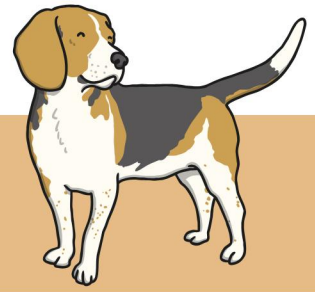
When the chicks first hatch they are covered with tiny, soft, fluffy feathers called down, but they are wet at first. Chickens have contour feathers to keep them warm and flight feathers on their wings and tail.

8. How do cockerels look and behave?

Cockerels are bigger and more colourful than the hens. They do a little dance to impress the hens. Cockerels protect the hens. Cockerels have a comb on their head and two wattles under their neck.

9. What are hens ready to do at 6 months old? How does the life cycle start again?

Hens are ready to lay their first eggs when they are around 6 months old. When the hen lays and incubates an egg, the chicken life cycle starts all over again!



Dogs

Dogs have been kept as pets for hundreds of years. There are many different kinds of dog. Some are so small that they can be carried in a handbag, others are the size of a pony. Dogs are mammals, which means they have fur and are warm blooded.



Did you know?

Dogs have an amazing sense of smell. They can smell some things that we can't, meaning that they are brilliant for helping the police to catch criminals.

What can dogs do?

Dogs have many talents. They can be taught to herd sheep, helping farmers get them in from the fields. They can lead people who are blind, helping them to cross the road and find their way around safely. Some dogs can even pull people on sledges in snowy countries.

What do they eat?

Dogs are omnivores, which means they can eat meat and plants. They can eat nearly all the things we do. You should never feed a dog chocolate as it can make them very poorly.

Looking after a dog

Dogs love to exercise, so they need to go out for a walk every day. They need plenty of food to eat and water to drink, in order to stay healthy. Dogs love to play! They like to fetch balls and sticks. Because they have fur, they need to be brushed to keep their fur clean and smooth. They also like to swim. They will jump into streams and rivers, and make a real mess!

Questions About Dogs

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How long have people kept dogs as pets for?

2. How do dogs help farmers?

3. How do dogs help the police?

4. What should you never feed a dog?

5. What does omnivore mean?

6. What do dogs love to fetch?

7. Why do you need to brush dogs?

8. How do dogs help blind people?

Questions and Answers About Dogs

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. How long have people kept dogs as pets for?

Dogs have been kept as pets for hundreds of years.

2. How do dogs help farmers?

They can be taught to herd sheep, helping farmers get them in from the fields.

3. How do dogs help the police?

They can smell some things that we can't, meaning that they are brilliant for helping the police to catch criminals.

4. What should you never feed a dog?

You should never feed a dog chocolate.

5. What does omnivore mean?

They can eat meat and plants.

6. What do dogs love to fetch?

Dogs love to fetch balls and sticks.

7. Why do you need to brush dogs?

They need to be brushed to keep their fur clean and smooth.

8. How do dogs help blind people?

They help them to cross the road and find their way around safely.

Earthquake Comprehension

6 Italian scientists were convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison for failing to predict the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake in which 309 people died. They appealed their cases successfully and were not eventually sent to prison.

You could try to find out:

- How earthquakes are measured.
- How easy they are to predict.
- About other cases where prison sentences have been handed out in unusual circumstances.
- How the appeals process works.

Read the passage below carefully and then answer the questions underneath.

The Earth's crust and the top of the mantle have about 20 tectonic plates, which are like puzzle pieces covering the Earth. These plates are always moving and bumping into each other. We call the edges of the plates "plate boundaries", which are made up of faults. These faults are where most of the world's earthquakes occur. As the plates move, the edges get stuck because they are not smooth, but the rest of the plate keeps moving. When the force is too much, it breaks free and that causes an earthquake. A seismograph is a special instrument that records earthquakes. The base of the seismograph is on the ground, and over that a weight hangs from a string. When there is an earthquake the base shakes with the ground but the weight does not, and it draws a line to show how much the ground shook. Scientists use the seismograms to measure how big each earthquake is.

1. How many tectonic plates are there?

2. What are plate boundaries?

3. Where do earthquakes take place?

4. Describe what causes an earthquake.

5. What is a seismograph?

6. How does a seismograph work?

Fish

The rivers, streams, seas and oceans around us are full of fish in all sorts of different shapes, sizes and colours. Unlike us, fish are cold-blooded creatures and live and breathe in water. They have bones but instead of legs have fins, which they use to swim in water.



Fascinating Facts

Fish are covered in scales and slime, which helps them to swim through the water.

African lungfish cover themselves in a mud tunnel underneath the water in the lake they live in. After their lake has dried up, they can live for years buried in the mud, breathing air and waiting for it to rain and fill the lake with water again.

Where Do They Live?

Fish are found in all of the world's seas and oceans from the warm tropical seas to the icy polar waters. The type of fish they are depends on where they choose to live. Some fish prefer living in between coral and plants or further down towards the bottom of the sea, resting on the sandy seabed. Others prefer to live near the surface of the water.

What Do They Eat?

Fish eat different foods. Some fish eat plants that grow in the sea or algae from the side of rocks. Whilst others, such as the shark, eat other fish and animals including humans.

Staying Safe

Flatfish, such as halibut, flounder, turbot and sole, can change their colours and patterns so they are the same as their surroundings. They often bury themselves in the sand so they are not seen.

Balloon fish and pufferfish can blow their bodies up and use sharp spines and scales to defend themselves.

Questions about...

Fish

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What do fish have instead of legs?

2. Where do fish live?

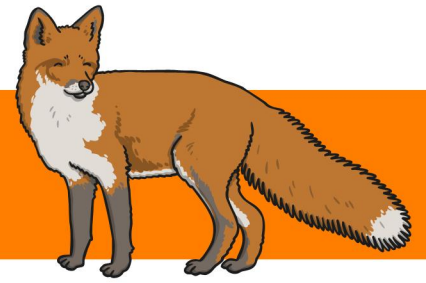
3. What do fish eat?

4. How do flatfish stay safe?

5. What do pufferfish do to defend themselves?

6. Why do African lungfish cover themselves in mud?

The Fox



Foxes are a member of the dog family, and are found throughout the United Kingdom. Though they are like dogs, they are only a little bit bigger than most cats. The male fox is called a dog and a female fox is called a vixen.



Did you know?

They are mammals, which means they have warm blood and fur. Even though they are nocturnal (move around and eat at night), they can be seen during the day. They like to sunbathe.

Amazing Facts

Foxes have brilliant hearing. They can hear something as quiet as a watch ticking, from 30 metres away! This would be like hearing someone whisper from across the playground. As well as having great hearing, they can run really fast. They can run up to 30 miles per hour, which is really fast.

What do foxes eat?

Foxes are carnivores, which means they eat meat, but they will eat berries off bushes and even look in rubbish bins for leftovers. Baby foxes, called kits, drink milk from their mothers before they start eating more usual foods like worms! Foxes will also hide food to come back and eat later.

Where do they live?

Foxes are found in all sorts of places, or habitats. They live with other foxes in dens in the countryside but will also make their homes in towns and cities. You might spot one if you are out on a dark night.

Questions About The Fox

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Foxes are only a little bit bigger than what animal?

2. What is a female fox called?

3. How fast can foxes run?

4. Name two places you might find a fox.

5. Name two things that a fox might eat.

6. From how far away can a fox hear a ticking watch?

7. What does nocturnal mean?

8. How do we know foxes are mammals?

Answers About The Fox

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Foxes are only a little bit bigger than what animal?

Foxes are only a little bit bigger than most cats.

2. What is a female fox called?

A female fox is called a vixen.

3. How fast can foxes run?

They can run up to 30 miles per hour, which is really fast.

4. Name two places you might find a fox.

They live with other foxes in dens in the countryside but will also make their homes in towns and cities.

5. Name two things that a fox might eat.

They eat meat, but they will eat berries off bushes and even look in rubbish bins for leftovers.

6. From how far away can a fox hear a ticking watch?

They can hear something as quiet as a watch ticking, from 30 metres away!

7. What does nocturnal mean?

They move around and eat at night.

8. How do we know foxes are mammals?

Because they have warm blood and fur.

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs are a largely nocturnal species, as they are unlikely to come out during the day. In the daytime, they spend a considerable amount of time sleeping in rocks, grounds, or under bushes.



Fascinating Facts

The hedgehog got its name because it roots through hedges searching for food (hedge), while grunting like a pig (hog); this is why it's called a hedgehog!

They have about 5,000 spines. Each spine lasts about a year before it drops out and a replacement grows.

Where Do They Live?

Hedgehogs can be found in almost all areas of the UK, except some of the Scottish islands. They tend to be scarce in wetland areas, pine forests and the highlands, where food and nesting sites are harder to find. Hedgehogs prefer moist habitats and live either on the ground or under the ground. They make habitats in farmlands, gardens, or even in parks. They live in nests under hedges or where ground-dwelling insects and other invertebrates are in large quantity.

Favourite Foods

The hedgehog has a reputation as being the 'gardener's friend' as it loves eating so many 'pests'. Some of their favourite foods are small creatures such as insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs and snakes.

Staying Safe

Hedgehogs have sharp spines on their back, and when they are scared they curl up into a ball. Hedgehogs often roll up into a tight ball to protect themselves. As they feel threatened, they make their muscles active, which causes their spines to straighten. It is the only mammal native to Britain that has spines.

Questions about...

Hedgehogs



Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What type of animals are hedgehogs?

2. What do they do during the day?

3. Where do hedgehogs live?

4. Why won't you find many hedgehogs in wetland areas, pine forests or the highlands of Scotland?

5. Why do some people call hedgehogs 'the gardener's friend'?

6. How do hedgehogs stay safe?

7. Write an interesting fact about hedgehogs below.
