

What's in the Oceans? Amazing Ocean Animals



NOAA

Green Sea Turtle

A sea turtle has a hard shell on its back. It has flippers to help it swim. A sea turtle can't pull its head into its shell the way a land turtle can. A sea turtle eats only plants.

Purple Sea Urchin

The purple sea urchin has spiny, hard skin. It lives on the rocky seafloor. Purple sea urchins eat anything they can find at the bottom of the ocean.

Starfish



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A starfish has spiny skin. It usually has five rays, or arms. Some have more (see picture). On the bottom of each arm, the starfish has tube feet. The tube feet help it stick to rocks. A starfish has an eyespot at the end of each arm.

Sea Horse

A sea horse has bony plates all over its body. It lives in seaweed beds and warm water. A sea horse swims slowly with small fins. It eats small fish and plants.

Clownfish

A clownfish has scales on its body. This fish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant. The plant helps protect the fish at night. The clownfish eats small plants.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. According to the passage, why does the clownfish sleep in the branches of a poisonous plant?

- A The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to get a good night's sleep.
- B The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to protect itself.
- C The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to eat the plant when it wakes up.
- D The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to clean the scales on its body.

2. What do all the animals described in this text have in common?

- A All these animals eat plants.
- B All these animals have spiny skin.
- C All these animals live in the ocean.
- D All these animals are fish.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A some of these animals can swim very long distances
- B some of the animals described in the text live on the ocean floor
- C none of these animals is eaten by other animals
- D all of these animals eat only plants

4. Read the following sentences and answer the question: "This fish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant. The plant helps protect the fish at night."

What does the word **poisonous** mean?

- A able to eat
- B able to swim
- C able to sleep
- D able to harm

5. This passage is mostly about

- A different ocean creatures
- B ocean animals with scales or spines
- C turtles and sea horses and what they eat
- D the clownfish and its strange sleeping habits

6. According to the passage, what is one similarity between a green sea turtle and a sea horse?

7. What body features do the animals in the passage have that help them protect themselves?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant _____ it needs protection at night.

- A and
- B but
- C although
- D because

9. Read the following sentence.

A green sea turtle has a hard shell on its back to help protect its body.

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. What is the main subject of the sentence? a green sea turtle

2. What does a green sea turtle have? _____

3. Where? _____

4. Why? _____

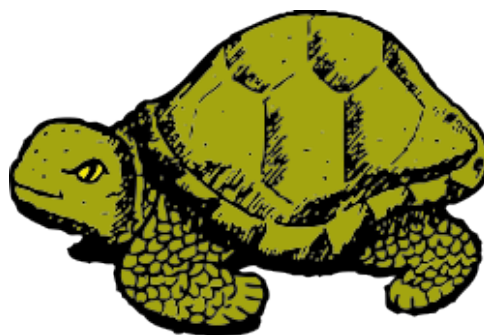
10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below, and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: spiny (spi · ny): having sharp, pointed parts.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline the word **spiny**.

1. The teacher wanted the students to be careful of the spiny skin of the cactus plant.
2. Some fish have spiny skin so that they can protect themselves.
3. I was glad I was wearing long pants when we hiked through the spiny bushes.
4. The lobster was very spiny, so I asked my mother to hold it for me.
5. Spiny plants can be beautiful but hard to handle.

10b. Which animal can be described as being spiny?



11. Is a dog's hair spiny? Why or why not?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 640

Featured Text Structure: Enumerative – the writer includes a list, giving examples of something. This text structure is often combined with cause/effect or problem/solution.

Passage Summary: This passage describes five different ocean animals. The author includes information about what the animals eat, what they look like, and some of their habits.

1. According to the passage, why does the clownfish sleep in the branches of a poisonous plant?

- A The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to get a good night's sleep.
- B The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to protect itself.**
- C The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to eat the plant when it wakes up.
- D The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant to clean the scales on its body.

2. What do all the animals described in this text have in common?

- A All these animals eat plants.
- B All these animals have spiny skin.
- C All these animals live in the ocean.**
- D All these animals are fish.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A some of these animals can swim very long distances
- B some of the animals described in the text live on the ocean floor**
- C none of these animals is eaten by other animals
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4. Read the following sentences and answer the question: "This fish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant. The plant helps protect the fish at night."

What does the word **poisonous** mean?

- A able to eat
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5. This passage is mostly about

- A different ocean creatures**
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6. According to the passage, what is one similarity between a green sea turtle and a sea horse?

Suggested answer: One similarity between a green sea turtle and a sea horse is that they both eat plants. [paragraphs #1, 4]

7. What body features do the animals in the passage have that help them protect themselves?

Suggested answer: The sea turtle has a hard shell. The sea urchin and the starfish have spiny skin. The sea horse has bony plates all over its body, and the clownfish has scales. [paragraphs #1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The clownfish sleeps in the branches of a poisonous plant _____ it needs protection at night.

- A and
- B but
- C although
- D **because**

9. Read the following sentence.

A green sea turtle has a hard shell on its back to help protect its body.

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. What is the main subject of the sentence? a green sea turtle
2. What does a green sea turtle have? **a hard shell**
3. Where? **on its back**
4. Why? **to help protect its body**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: spiny

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (spi · ny)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is spiny. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "spiny."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Spiny means having sharp, pointed parts."
- b. Teacher says: "In the text, both the starfish and the purple sea urchin are described as having spiny skin. This means that they have sharp, pointed parts on their skin. Spiny means having sharp, pointed parts."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "spiny."]

Step 3: Practice the word

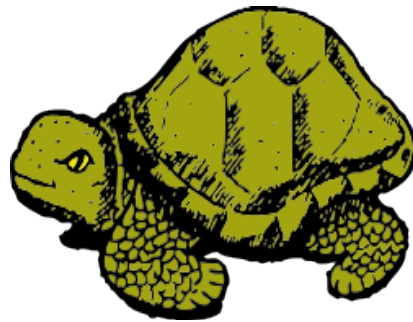
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. The teacher wanted the students to be careful of the spiny skin of the cactus plant.
 2. Some fish have spiny skin so that they can protect themselves.
 3. I was glad I was wearing long pants when we hiked through the spiny bushes.
 4. The lobster was very spiny, so I asked my mother to hold it for me.
 5. Spiny plants can be beautiful but hard to handle.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** Which animal can be described as being spiny?



- 11.** Is a dog's hair spiny? Why or why not?

Suggested answer: No, because it does not have sharp parts and is not painful to touch.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: beds, scales, fins