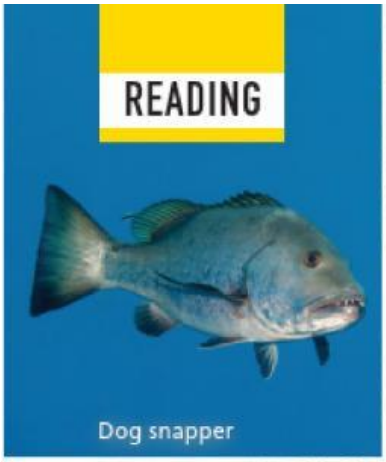
READING


Dog snapper

Aye-aye

Bactrian camel

Sparrow hawk

Jackson's chameleon

Lilac-breasted roller

Alpine ibex

Star-nosed mole

Wiki animals

1 Work in pairs. Look at the photos with the article and discuss these questions for each animal.

1 Where do you think the animal lives – in what kind of landscape and in what part of the world? Explain why.

2 Why do you think it might have adapted as it has and what special features might it have developed?

3 What do you think it might eat? Explain why.

2 Read the descriptions of four animals. Match each animal with the correct photo and check your ideas from Exercise 1.

Language notes

peninsula (n) = piece of land stretching out into the sea
nests (v) = makes its nest
motionless (adj) = without moving
draw near (v + adv) = come close
swooping down (v + prep) = moving quickly through the air
amphibian (n) = animal that lives both on land and water
targeted (adj) = attacked by
wingspan (n) = the length of a bird's wings from tip to tip
draw upon (v + prep) = use as a means of supply
mating season (adj + n) = season when animals reproduce
feelers (n) = organs that allow an animal to touch and understand what's around
sense (v) = feel
scents (n) = natural smells
snatch (v) = take hold of something forcefully; grab
manoeuvre (v) = move
shooting out (v + prep) = moving out quickly
in mid-flight (adv phr) = while flying
slender (adj) = thin and fragile
grasp (v) = grab
projection (n) = an extension of a limb or similar
grip (v) = grab
whilst (conj) = while
plucking (v) = grabbing and pulling out
tearing (v) = cutting; ripping open
pest (n) = an animal that is harmful to crops
garden bird population (n) = birds that can be found in urban settings
that can spell (phr) = which can mean
preyed on (v + prep) = attacked
over-fishing (n) = fishing too quickly so that fish populations can't reproduce

3 Match each sentence (a–l) with one of the animals (1–4). Underline the parts of the descriptions that help you decide. Then compare your ideas with a partner.

a It's started moving to habitats where it's in less danger.
b It can store up dangerous substances found within its prey.
c Its limitations in one area have led to it developing another unusual ability.
d It's able to crack open well-protected prey.
e It's good at disguising itself.
f It has a particular cultural significance for some.
g It has developed a special way of accessing food reserves.
h It generally avoids more densely-forested areas.
i It'll sometimes catch its prey in the air.
j It usually eats its victims in one go.
k It's not certain it will survive much longer.
l It holds a particular record.

LIVEWORKSHEETS