

8a Nature's mysteries



Vocabulary and listening the natural world

- 1 Work in pairs. You are going to listen to some audio clips from a website about mysteries in nature. Look at the photos from the website. Discuss them with your partner.

It looks like / reminds me of (a)...

- 2 Work in pairs. You will hear these words in the audio clips. Complete the sentences with them.

ants	atmosphere	beetles	butterflies	flies
insects	nitrogen	oxygen	particles	predators
radiation	species	spikes	stem	

- _____ and _____ are gases in the _____.
- Both _____ and _____ are flying _____.
- _____ is the name for energy in the form of rays or waves.
- _____ and _____ live on the ground and in the soil.
- Leaves and flowers grow from a plant's _____.
- _____ are tiny pieces of material.
- _____ catch and eat other _____.
- Some plants have long, sharp _____, like needles.

- 3 32 Listen to the audio clips. Write the number of the clip (1–3) next to the words in Exercise 2.

- 4 32 Listen to the clips again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- The colors are man-made lights.
- The color of the lights depends on oxygen and nitrogen.
- The orange ball is a butterfly egg.
- One image uses a technique called macro photography.
- Some plants can chase insects.
- The Australian sundew plant traps flies on its sticky spikes.

- 5 What can you remember? Test each other.

- What are the lights in the sky?
- Why might butterflies lay eggs in places like this?
- How do some plants catch animals?

Grammar modal verbs (2)

- 6 Match these sentences (1–4) with their uses (a–d).
- The colors are so vivid that you think they can't be natural.
 - You imagine that they must be man-made.
 - This might be a painting or a work of art.
 - It may not seem logical, but there are indeed plants that catch insects.
- The speaker is certain something is true.
 - The speaker is certain something is false.
 - The speaker thinks it's possible something is true.
 - The speaker thinks it's possible something is false.

SPECULATION AND DEDUCTION ABOUT THE PRESENT

<i>must</i>	+ base form
<i>might (not) / may (not) / could</i>	+ be + -ing
<i>can't</i>	

For more information and practice, see page 166.

- 7 Look at the grammar box. Underline the modal verbs in the audioscript on page 178.
- 8 Read the text *Navigation in nature*. Cross out any options that are not possible.

Word focus look

- 9 Match the two parts of these sentences. Check your answers in the audioscript on page 178. Underline another expression with *look* that means the same as item 1.
- The sky looks as though
 - The sky looks
 - The shiny drops look like
 - Look
- carefully.
 - water.
 - it's on fire.
 - green.
- 10 Complete the sentences with an expression with *look* from Exercise 9.
- You _____ great! Are you going somewhere special?
 - Mohamed _____ a model in that fine suit.
 - Joe _____ he hasn't slept all night.
 - You _____ angry! What's the matter?
 - You _____ you've had some good news.
 - I'll need to _____ closely at this contract.

Speaking

- 11 Work in two pairs within a group of four. You are photo editors at a magazine. You can't find the correct captions for your photos. Describe your photos to the other pair and find the correct caption.
- Pair A: Turn to page 153. Look at the photos and captions.
- Pair B: Turn to page 154. Look at the photos and captions.

NAVIGATION IN NATURE

Arctic terns (pictured) are among many animals that travel huge distances every year, returning to the same place each time. How do they find their way? Scientists believe that this ability ¹ *must be* / *can't be* instinctive in some animals, such as salmon, because they are not guided by a parent. They think that the fish ² *might recognize* / *could recognize* the smell of the river they came from. According to current theories, some migrating birds, like the tern, ³ *could use* / *may use* the Earth's magnetic field or the sun as a guide. Studies have shown that in some species, older birds are more successful navigators. This ⁴ *can't mean* / *could mean* that birds learn with experience or they react to weather conditions. In fact, instinct ⁵ *may be* / *can't be* the whole story: a flock of young geese once learned their migration route by following a human in a plane.



An Arctic tern