

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.