

Reading and Writing

HAVE
A
GOOD DAY

Unit 3 Leeches

1. Name five different legless animals which live in your country.

2. Where can you find these animals?

Reading •

They're small-most of them are less than 1 centimetre long. They don't look dangerous and they can't kill you, but most people are afraid of them. What are they? They are leeches, small animals that live on the forest floor and feed on blood. Most of the time they get blood from the animals in their surroundings but they will drink human blood, too. 😞

As soon as they find an animal, they sink their teeth into the skin and suck the blood. Leeches can take in as much blood as more than three times their own weight. When they are full, they drop off and find somewhere to rest for half a year! Each time leeches drink blood, it can keep them alive for six months.

Just why people are so afraid of leeches is difficult to say. May be it's because they drink blood. But they are quite useful, too. Doctors may use them during an operation. The leeches help doctors by drinking blood around a cut. With less blood there, the doctors can see better what they are doing.

YOU CAN DO IT

