

- 1 Look at photographs A–C. Decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F).

Photo A This animal lives in Africa.

Photo B This animal can run as fast as a cheetah.

Photo C This animal is very intelligent.

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- 2 Read the article to find out if you were right.

EXAM FOCUS Multiple choice

- 3 Read the article again. Choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

- 1 Scientists thought the platypus could not be real because
 - A it had strange fur.
 - B its bill was a funny shape.
 - C the drawing they saw was poor quality.
 - D it had the body parts of different animals.
- 2 A platypus
 - A eats eggs.
 - B looks after its young in the same way as birds do.
 - C can hurt you.
 - D has a tail like a snake.
- 3 The pronghorn
 - A has to rest after 200 metres.
 - B can run for a very long time.
 - C can run faster than a cheetah.
 - D evolved from a cheetah.
- 4 The author thinks octopuses
 - A are a beautiful colour.
 - B cannot see very well.
 - C can be dangerous.
 - D are smart but hard to understand.
- 5 Which comment could a reader post under this article?
 - A It was fascinating to read about these amazing animals. It's good news that we can now see them all in our zoo.
 - B I was really amazed at the unusual things these three strange animals do. Very interesting!
 - C It's very sad to read that these astonishing animals are in danger. And all because we humans don't protect the environment on our planet.
 - D These are very interesting stories. Can you post more stories about fantastic animals that don't really exist?

- 4 3.52 Match the words in blue in the article with the definitions below. Then listen, check and repeat.

- 1 the body organ that humans and many animals use to breathe = lungs
- 2 the body organ that humans and animals use to think and feel = _____
- 3 the hair on an animal's body = _____
- 4 animal, living thing = _____
- 5 the things and conditions around a person, animal or thing = _____
- 6 run away from = _____
- 7 give food to = _____

- 5 Complete the statements with words in Exercise 4. Change the words in *italics* to make the statements true for you. Compare with a partner.

- 1 In my opinion, the *tiger* is one of the most beautiful creatures on Earth.
- 2 I like spending time *in Hyde Park* because of the attractive _____.
- 3 I've got a *pet snake*. I _____ it three times a week.
- 4 My *grandma's* cat has black and white _____.
- 5 I like holidays because I can _____ from the noise of the city.
- 6 I think *doing jigsaw puzzles* is good exercise for the _____.

WORD STORE 8E Word families

- 6 3.53 Complete WORD STORE 8E with the underlined words in the text. Then listen, check and repeat.

- 7 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- 1 Bears look like big soft toys, but they can be dangerous. **DANGER**
- 2 There is an exhibition at the Natural History Museum about the _____ of humans. **EVOLVE**
- 3 Dolphins are known for their _____. **INTELLIGENT**
- 4 If you pick mushrooms in the forest, make sure you don't pick _____ ones. **POISON**
- 5 Rabbits are good runners because they often have to run from _____. **ATTACK**

- 8 **SPEAKING** Discuss with a partner.

- 1 Have you seen any of the animals from the article? Which one would you most like to see? Why?
- 2 Do you find animals interesting? Why?/Why not? Which ones in particular?

I have seen an octopus, but I would really like to see a platypus, because ...

ASTONISHING ANIMALS

Our planet is full of weird and wonderful creatures. Meet three of them – animals with surprising bodies, habits and abilities.

The animal that can't be true

When in 1798 zoologists in Britain first saw the skin of an Australian platypus and a drawing of the animal, they were sure it was a hoax. A creature like that could not exist. Why not? First, it has **fur**, like cats and dogs, but also a flat bill like a duck, and a big thick tail like a beaver. Secondly, it lays eggs and looks after them like a bird, but when the young come out of the eggs, the mother **feeds** them with her milk. On top of everything, the platypus has a **poisonous** sting – like a snake! It cannot kill a human, but it's very painful.



A platypus



B pronghorn

Champion Runner

You probably know the cheetah is the fastest runner among animals. It can run at up to 100 kilometres per hour. But after some 200 metres, it needs to lie down and rest. The pronghorn, which lives in the prairies of North America, can run a few kilometres at ninety kilometres per hour, and fifteen kilometres at sixty-five kilometres per hour. Its whole body – heart, **lungs**, legs – is a perfect machine for long-distance running. But why? It doesn't need to run this fast now, but 18,000 years ago there were cheetahs in America. The pronghorn probably **evolved** to **escape** them. This beautiful animal is not well-known in Europe, but in America it is a symbol of prairie life. You can see it in the emblem of the province of Alberta, Canada.

Aliens in the ocean

An octopus has no fixed shape or colour. In danger, it will change both. It can become like its **surroundings** and difficult to see. Or it can look like a **dangerous** animal, such as a sea snake, and scare an **attacker** away. Octopuses are also intelligent. Their **brains** are large in proportion to their body size. They can use tools and solve problems: for example, open bottles to get food, or use clever strategies to escape from an aquarium. It seems they are unhappy in a zoo or lab. But they are so different from humans that it is difficult for us to understand their **intelligence**. In fact, it is a bit like meeting intelligent aliens.



C octopus