

18 Animals, insects and birds

A Animals, insects and birds



bull



tiger



camel



bear



leopard



wolf



crocodile



eagle



spider



butterfly



bee



mosquito

Many of these creatures live in the wild, which means they live in nature and not with people, e.g. tigers. You can see many of them in a zoo. A bee, a butterfly and a mosquito are all insects: small creatures with six legs and usually wings.

1 Write the names of these creatures in order from big to small.

bear butterfly eagle camel ✓ bee leopard mosquito

big ▶ camel small

2 Yes or No?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▶ Can lions and tigers swim? <u>Yes</u> | 6 Do camels have wings? |
| 1 Do leopards have spots? | 7 Do tigers have a tail? |
| 2 Do bulls have feathers? | 8 Do wolves have fur? |
| 3 Do eagles have feathers? | 9 Do butterflies have wings? |
| 4 Can mosquitos make you ill? | 10 Do spiders fly? |
| 5 Do bears have fur? | 11 Do some butterflies have spots? |

3 Complete the sentences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▶ <u>Bees</u> make honey, don't they? | 5 A spider has eight legs (not six), so it's not an |
| 1 They say can go for months without drinking. | 6 The bird had a problem with one of its and it couldn't fly. |
| 2 There are a lot of in the zoo: animals, insects and fish. | 7 I love the on tigers – they're beautiful. |
| 3 You can see lots of animals in the in parts of Africa. | 8 Thick keeps bears warm in cold winters. |
| 4 Did you see any tigers when you went to the ? | |

4 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers, or ask another student.

In your country, which of the creatures at the top of the page do people kill, and why?

▶ People kill spiders because they don't want them in their homes, or because they're afraid of them.



B Unusual facts about animals

Snakes

There are about 2,600 different kinds of snake. About 400 are **poisonous**, but many are **harmless**. In size, they **vary** enormously: the smallest are 12 centimetres long, the biggest are **up to** ten metres and **weigh** 250 kilos. Snakes don't need energy from food (the sun heats their bodies), so they can **survive** for months without eating.



Sharks

The **average lifespan** of a shark is about 25 years but some can live to be 100. They are unusual in that they have **no bones** in their body, and large sharks may have up to 4,000 teeth. They are very dangerous when they **hunt**, but only a few **attack** humans: more people die from bee **stings** than from shark attacks.



GLOSSARY

poisonous	If an animal or insect is poisonous , it produces a dangerous substance (poison) that can kill or harm you.
harmless	not causing damage, injury or illness OPP harmful ; harm <i>n, v</i>
vary	(of a group of similar things) be different from each other
up to	used when saying the most an amount can be
weigh	have a certain weight <i>n</i> , which is how heavy sth is
survive	continue to live in a difficult situation survival <i>n</i>

average lifespan	normal or typical the time that sth is likely to live (For people, we say life expectancy .)
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bone	
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hunt	go after sth, usually an animal, to catch and kill it
attack	try to hurt sb/sth by using physical force attack <i>n</i>
sting	a sudden pain caused by poison sent into the skin sting <i>v</i> Bees sting , but mosquitos and snakes bite .

5 True, false or both according to the text? Write T or F. If the sentences are false, correct them.

- The average lifespan of a snake is 25 years. F - The average lifespan of a shark is 25 years.
- 1 Most snakes are poisonous. _____ 4 Snakes can weigh up to 250 kilos. _____
- 2 Most sharks are harmless to humans. _____ 5 Sharks have 400 bones in their body. _____
- 3 Snakes can survive without the sun's heat. _____ 6 Sharks sting when they attack. _____

6 Answer the questions. Do you know ...?

- if **attack** is a noun, a verb, or both? both
- 1 the noun from the verb **survive**? _____ 4 the adjective from **poison**? _____
- 2 the time that people are likely to live? Life _____ 5 the two adjectives from the noun **harm**? _____
- 3 the noun from the verb **weigh**? _____ 6 the verb from the noun **sting**? _____

7 Complete the words in these animal facts.

- The average lifespan of most bees is 30-35 days.
- 1 Some snakes can s_____ for almost a year without food.
- 2 Nobody knows the a_____ lifespan of a snake, but in zoos they can reach 30.
- 3 People h_____ sharks for their meat and skin, but also for sport.
- 4 Over 100 people a year die from a bee s_____.
- 5 Snakes can grow u_____ to nine metres long.
- 6 The size of sharks can v_____ from the size of your hand to the size of a bus.
- 7 P_____ from some snakes can kill you.
- 8 Some snakes can w_____ as much as 250 kilos.



TEST YOURSELF