



CORE

NONFICTION READING

Stephanie Alexander • Liana Robinson

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Designer: Andy Roh

email: info@compasspub.com

<http://www.compasspub.com>

ISBN: 978-1-61352-742-9

17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8
24 23 22 21 20

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Printed in Korea

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Unit Overview

Student Book

These pre-reading questions focus students on the topic of the unit and integrate skills by allowing them to discuss the topic they will read about. Sample answers are provided in the answer key.

UNIT 8 Creatures from the Deep

Before You Read

Talk about these questions with your classmates.

1. How often do you go swimming?
2. What is the deepest water you have swum in?
3. What kinds of creatures do you think are found in deep waters?

Word Booster

Read the definitions. Then match each word in bold with its definition.

A. a ship that can operate underwater
B. a medium-sized or large ocean fish known for its sharp teeth
C. an animal that is hunted as food by another animal
D. a period of time that is associated with a specific event, person, etc.
E. to be ready and waiting for someone or something
F. to cause someone to do or want to do something
G. not as deep; closer to the surface
H. to live in a place
I. rate or ratio; size or amount of a thing in relation to the size or amount of another thing

1. ____ Deep-sea creatures are different from those living in shallower depths.
2. ____ Scary-looking fish inhabit the deepest parts of the ocean.
3. ____ Humpback anglerfish tempt other fish with a light on their antenna.
4. ____ Some fish capture their prey by tricking them.
5. ____ The long, pointed teeth of the humpback anglerfish await the next victim.
6. ____ The frilled shark lives thousands of feet under the surface of the ocean.
7. ____ Some deep-sea fish look like they are from the era of dinosaurs.
8. ____ The fangtooth's teeth are very big in proportion to the size of its body.
9. ____ Some creatures have been found only recently with the help of deep-sea submersibles.

In order to boost comprehension of the passage, the Word Booster vocabulary activity introduces students to words they are likely unfamiliar with. Sentences that use the vocabulary words in the passage are paraphrased here, giving students a preview of the content of the passage. All of this ensures that students feel challenged but not overwhelmed by the reading.

The reading passage has been quantitatively analyzed to ensure that it is appropriate for students of the target English level.

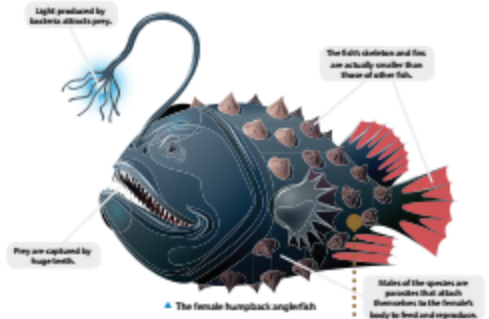
Main Reading

Beneath the Surface of the Deep Blue Sea

Earth is called "the Blue Planet" because seventy percent of its surface is water. There are many animals underwater that we have not yet seen and others that we can't believe exist. Deep-sea creatures have adapted to an environment that is cold and dark, with little oxygen. In order to survive in deep waters, these creatures have developed unique characteristics that fish living in shallower depths do not possess.

A number of terrifying-looking fish with sharp needle-like teeth inhabit the deepest parts of the ocean. The fangtooth fish, for example, can be found swimming in frigid depths of five thousand meters. Pressure there is about five hundred times what it is on land. Though the fish's body reaches only about sixteen centimeters in length, its teeth are the largest of any fish in proportion to body size.

The female humpback anglerfish is found at depths of around two thousand meters. It tempts its prey with a light produced by an antenna sticking out of its head.



▲ The female humpback anglerfish


It also has a mouth large enough to swallow any small creature foolish enough to be drawn to its light. The long, pointed teeth inside its mouth await its next victim. The male is much smaller and often cannot find food for itself. It uses its sense of smell to find a female that it can attach itself to and mate with.

The frilled shark usually lives several hundred meters below the ocean's surface, and occasionally it heads to even shallower depths. It has small, sharp teeth and looks like an ancient eel from the dinosaur era. This rare species attacks its prey like a snake, bending its body and lunging forward to swallow the victim whole.

This is perfect for its hunting grounds, which are mostly caves and cracks.

Other strange creatures have been found only recently with the help of deep-sea submarines. At present, more people have been to outer space than have traveled to the bottom of the ocean. Perhaps future exploration should focus more on the cold, dark depths of our seas. Imagine what sorts of terrifying creatures might be waiting!

▲ There's more to the ocean than what you see at its surface.




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Review the Highlights

◆ Mark up the text and infographic according to the instructions.

- Look at Paragraph 1. Circle why Earth is called "the Blue Planet."
- Look at Paragraph 2. Circle the depth of the water that fangtooth fish swim in.
- Look at Paragraph 3. Underline how a male anglerfish finds a female.
- Look at Paragraph 4. Underline how a frilled shark attacks its prey.
- Look at Paragraph 5. Underline the comparison between deep-sea exploration and space exploration.
- Look at the infographic. Write the source of the light given off by the fish's antenna.

 For more practice, go to page 121 of the Reading Skills Appendix.

Each unit includes an infographic, a visual aid that reinforces and expands on the reading topic.

The passage includes a picture that further reinforces the reading. All of this is followed by a text mark-up activity to make sure that students have interacted with the reading and infographic rather than just scanning them passively. This better equips students to answer the comprehension questions that follow.

Multiple choice questions, labeled by type, assess students' comprehension of the passage and require that they revisit the text to locate information. These questions are followed by a fill-in-the-blank summary that reviews not only the content of the passage, but also the vocabulary that has been introduced.

Check Your Comprehension

◆ Circle the correct answer.

- What is the reading about? *Main idea*
 - The unique characteristics of the humpback anglerfish
 - Sea creatures that live in the deepest parts of the ocean
 - The hunting habits of fished sharks
 - Fish that have teeth as big as their bodies
- What is NOT a feature of deep-sea environments? *Inference*
 - Warmth
 - Lack of oxygen
 - Cold
 - Lack of light
- What is unique about the fangtooth fish? *Detail/why*
 - It has a mouth large enough to swallow most sea creatures.
 - It cannot be tempted by the light at the end of the humpback anglerfish's antenna.
 - It has very long teeth for its size.
 - It lunges to catch its prey.
- Which fish lives in the deepest part of the ocean? *Fact*
 - Humpback anglerfish
 - Ancient eel
 - Filled shark
 - Fangtooth fish
- Which of the following statements is TRUE? *Fact*
 - The female humpback anglerfish attaches to the male to mate.
 - More people have been to outer space than to the bottom of the ocean.
 - The filled shark never goes above the frigid depths of five thousand feet.
 - The fangtooth fish uses its sense of smell to find a mate.

◆ Complete the summary. Write the words from the reading that best fit in the blanks. One word is extra.

shark tempt shallower inhabit era submarines prey await

Due to the environment in which they live, deep-sea creatures have evolved differently than fish at _____ depths. A lot of strange-looking fish _____ the ocean depths. The fangtooth fish, named for its fearsome teeth, lives in the deepest parts of the ocean. Anglerfish do, too. Female humpback anglerfish _____ their _____ with a light that shines from an antenna attached to their heads. Another unique deep-sea creature is the filled _____. It looks like an ancient eel from the dinosaur _____ and hunts for food in caves. Some of these creatures have been found with the help of deep-sea _____. Even more creatures await discovery in the deepest, darkest parts of the ocean.

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Linked Skills Activity

◆ Reread the second paragraph of the Main Reading, shown below. Decide which sentence is the least important. Cross it out.

A number of terrifying-looking fish with sharp needle-like teeth inhabit the deepest parts of the ocean. The fangtooth fish, for example, can be found swimming in frigid depths of five thousand meters. Pressure there is about five hundred times what it is on land. Though the fish's body reaches only about sixteen centimeters in length, its teeth are the largest of any fish in proportion to body size.

◆ Using the Internet or other sources of information, research the fangtooth fish. Paraphrase the paragraph above, replacing the sentence that you crossed out. Add two sentences of your own anywhere in the paragraph. These sentences can provide additional information about the fangtooth fish or give details about the information that is already mentioned.

For speed reading practice, go to page 19 of the Reading Fluency Workbook.

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A multi-step linked skills activity allows students to get practice using different English communication skills. Students reinforce learning by interacting with vocabulary and content in a variety of contexts.

Reading Skills Appendix

UNIT 8 Creatures from the Deep

◆ Compare and Contrast

Comparing and contrasting helps you recognize key similarities and differences between topics or pieces of information. It is also useful in determining which of two or more things is better or worse.

◆ Look at the diagram of this unit's Main Reading, "Beneath the Surface of the Deep Blue Sea." Write the information in the correct places.

swallowing teeth 5,000 shallower snake light
anglerfish 2,000 in proportion whole tempts antenna

Fangtooth Fish

Swims at 1. _____ meters

Largest 2. _____ of any fish 3. _____ to body size

Humpback 4. _____

Swims at 5. _____ meters

6. _____ prey with the 7. _____ on its 8. _____

Filled Shark

Swims at both deep and 9. _____ levels

Attacks prey like a 10. _____ lunging forward and

11. _____ it 12. _____

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The Appendix at the back of the book further supplements comprehension with a different type of activity. Each Appendix activity focuses on a specific organization pattern so that students can become familiar with these standards and improve their comprehension and note-taking skills.

Reading Fluency Workbook

UNIT 8 Speed Reading

The Elusive Giant Squid

The giant squid is both a literary and an aquatic legend that has been a part of many cultures for thousands of years. These squid are quite difficult to study because they are solitary hunters. It was only in 2010 that scientists in Japan captured video of a blue-giant squid in the wild. Until then, our knowledge of these animals was largely due to carcasses that washed up on the beach or were brought in by fishermen.

Scientists have found that a giant squid can grow up to eighteen meters long, or about the height of a two-story building. They also have the largest eyes in the animal kingdom. At times, these eyes can grow to the size of beach balls. The giant squid has a mantle, or torso, eight arms, and two long tentacles. The arms and tentacles make up most of the squid's body and include hundreds of suction cups lined with serrated teeth. These help the squid grab and hold on to its intended victim. The tentacles also help it pull food into its mouth.

The giant squid moves by drawing water into its mantle and forcing it out. This propulsion system helps it move gracefully over very long distances. Scientists are still unsure of the size of an individual squid's territory, but they assume it is considerable because giant squid have been found in all of the world's oceans.

The species is a carnivorous one. Its diet consists mostly of fish, other squid, and even small whales. Interestingly, the sperm whale is its only predator. In fact, scientists follow these predators in order to locate the elusive giant squid.

The giant squid remains mostly a mystery to scientists despite being the largest invertebrate known to exist. Perhaps one day, people will learn more about these elusive giants. Until then, researchers may have to base their studies on random sightings.

WD 331 / Turn to page 33 to read your WFL.

Check Your Comprehension

Circle the correct answer.

- What is the reading mostly about? *Skills: 1a*
 - History of the giant squid
 - What the giant squid eats
 - What scientists know about the giant squid
- What happened in 2010? *Skills: 2a*
 - Large giant squid carcasses washed up on shores.
 - Scientists captured a giant squid on video.
 - Fishermen brought in the first giant squid.
- Which of the following is NOT true? *Skills: 3a*
 - The giant squid has smaller eyes than other squid.
 - The giant squid can grow up to eighteen meters long.
 - The giant squid has eight arms and two long tentacles.
- Which of the following is TRUE? *Skills: 4a*
 - The giant squid has a small territory.
 - The giant squid has no predators.
 - The giant squid is a carnivore.
- What is mentioned as a way that scientists locate the giant squid? *Skills: 5a*
 - By following their predators.
 - By relying on information from fishermen.
 - By using deep-sea submarines.

Multiple choice questions assess whether the student has simply read fast or has read efficiently.

Reading passages in the Reading Fluency Workbook are topically related to those in the student book, but are less challenging. By doing timed reading practice with these passages, students are able to improve their reading speed and efficiency.

Speed Reading Progress Chart

A chart at the back of the Reading Fluency Workbook allows students to record the progress of their reading fluency. A second chart allows them to practice again.

READING SPEED CHART

How long it takes you to read a passage. Use the formula in the box to find your Words per Minute score. Enter in the box in the chart and track your progress.

Words per Minute	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12	Unit 13	Unit 14	Unit 15	Unit 16	Unit 17	Unit 18	Unit 19	Unit 20
100																				
90																				
80																				
70																				
60																				
50																				
40																				
30																				
20																				
10																				

WORDS per Minute = $\frac{\text{WORDS in PASSAGE}}{\text{TIME (minutes)}} \times 60 = \text{WORDS per Minute}$

MOBILE APP

Get the most out of **CORE Nonfiction Reading** by practicing with the mobile app. Download the BIGBOX app to your mobile device from Google Play or the Apple App Store. Access code and full instructions can be found at the front of the Student Book.

- Extra practice with vocabulary, reading comprehension, and reading fluency

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- Answer Key
- MP3 audio recordings of reading passages



UNIT

1

Dating in the Animal Kingdom



Scan and find the tracks.

Before You Read

◆ **Talk about these questions with your classmates.**

1. What do you know about the animals in the picture?
2. What courting rituals have you seen, on TV or in real life, between animals?
3. What strange courting rituals do you know about?



Word Booster

◆ Read the definitions. Then match each word in bold with its definition.

- A. to cry out in a loud and high voice because of pain, surprise, anger, etc.
- B. complicated and detailed in design
- C. of, relating to, or involving love; showing love
- D. to pair a male and a female in order to produce a baby
- E. to deal with something unpleasant, often for a long time
- F. a series of acts that are always performed in the same way
- G. to do something one way because you have tried other ways and failed
- H. a child or animal born to a particular parent
- I. to make someone or something want to come to you
- J. direct; simple

1. _____ Animals **mate** in order to produce offspring that pass their genes on.
2. _____ **Offspring** usually stay very close to their mother after birth.
3. _____ Male birds of paradise use their **elaborate** plumage to attract females.
4. _____ Some animals **resort** to tricks to find a mate.
5. _____ Some animals perform courting **rituals** so that they can attract a partner.
6. _____ Male bowerbirds can be seen as **romantic** because of how they attract a female.
7. _____ Some male birds dance to **lure** the female to them.
8. _____ If a female porcupine **screams**, it means she is not interested in the male.
9. _____ Single people are lucky because they do not have to **endure** strange courting rituals.
10. _____ In spite of evolution, mating in the animal kingdom is not a very **straightforward** process.