



Word
Sparks
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AMAZING ANIMAL DISCOVERIES



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OXFORD

Focus words

This series features 300 carefully selected words from the Oxford Children's Corpus. The following focus words appear in this book.

bound

ADJECTIVE

If something is bound to happen, it will definitely happen.

emerge

VERB

to come out or appear; to become known

firm

ADJECTIVE

strong and definite

honest

ADJECTIVE

truthful

require

VERB

to need something; to be needed to do something

seek

VERB

If you seek something, you try to find it.

task

NOUN

A task is a job that you have to do.

vision

NOUN

the ability to see something; something that you see or imagine

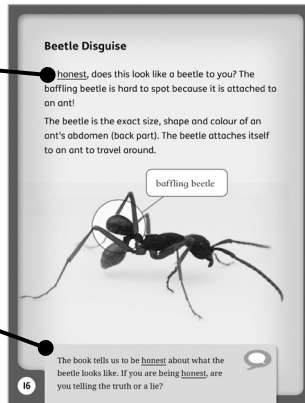
How to use this book



The focus words are underlined when there is a focus word box on the page.

The focus word boxes provide a prompt for thinking about the focus words. Don't worry if your child doesn't know the meaning of the focus words immediately.

Encourage your child to read independently, with expression and at their own pace. Remember to praise your child's efforts!



Ideally your child should read the book more than once to gain a thorough understanding of the text and to become fluent with the focus words.

After reading, talk about the focus words and any other words that you or your child found interesting. Carry on talking about the focus words whenever a chance comes up in daily life, or when reading other books.

Discovering Animals

Do you know how many types of animals there are in the world? There are over eight *million* species!



What is a species?

A species is a group of animals that are similar enough to each other that they can have offspring. For example, lions and tigers are both big cats but they are different species. Every species is given a special name in Latin – so lions are called *Panthera leo* and tigers are called *Panthera tigris*.



Did you know that we are still discovering animals? Scientists discover dozens of new species every year. To discover a new species, scientists must prove that no one else has found it first. They must then describe exactly what the species is like.

Some recently discovered animals are alive today, but others have been **extinct** for millions of years.



Scientists say we are bound to continue finding more animal species, because there are still so many places on Earth to explore. This book is all about the most amazing recent animal discoveries.

If we are bound to discover more animal species, is it definite that this will happen or is it unlikely to happen?



Extinction Threat

Scientists say there are millions of animal species left to discover. Some may be alive today. Others will already be extinct.

Sometimes animals are made extinct by a massive event. Many scientists believe the dinosaurs died out when an **asteroid** struck the Earth, millions of years ago. The asteroid caused dust clouds which blocked out sunlight, and most animal life did not survive.



Climate change is a massive event threatening animals today. Climate change is warming the Earth and destroying habitats. It will make many animals extinct. Humans can slow down climate change by making changes to our lives, but it is a big task. It requires us to recycle, stop burning **fossil fuels** and prevent forests being cut down.



If we look after their homes, there will be many more amazing animals to discover in the future.

Why might slowing down climate change be a big task? What could you do to help?



Comprehension

Before reading

- Ask your child to read the title of the book and the back cover information.
- Ask: *What do you think the animal is on the cover? What amazing animals do you like?*

During reading

- Your child should be able to read most of the words in this book confidently, using their phonics skills. For any challenging words, encourage your child to say and blend the sounds, then help with the tricky part if necessary or simply read the word to them.
- On page 10, ask: *Can you describe what you think 'crushing pressure from the water' might feel like?*
- On page 14, ask: *Why do you think tweezer-beaked hopping rats like eating earthworms?*

(because they don't have teeth and earthworms are soft)

- On page 16, ask: *What words could you use to describe the baffling beetle's behaviour?* (cunning, clever, lazy, ingenious)

After reading

- Encourage your child to talk about the different sections of the book using their own words. They can look back at the book to help.
- Ask: *Why is it rare to find a pygmy seahorse?* (because they are so tiny, they're hard to see)
- Ask: *What is special about vipers' fangs?* (they fold out when the viper opens its mouth)
- Ask: *What is the biggest threat to the Tapanuli orangutan?* (people cutting down its forests)
- Ask: *Which amazing animal was your favourite? Why?*

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AMAZING ANIMAL DISCOVERIES

Did you know that scientists are finding new types of animal all the time? Meet the creatures that have stayed secret for centuries ...



Books at Level 12

The Great Canal Clean Up
The Wrong Instruments
Mind That Meteor!
The Foolish Hare and The Mango Tree
Who's Got Talent?
Diamond Dazzle
> **Amazing Animal Discoveries**
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