



WEEK 3: LIVING THINGS



Science in the News



Rare image of a little mouse-deer
Photo credit: SIE/GWC/Leibniz-IZW/NCNP

Parents:

For primary learners, work through our full 'Living Things' lesson plan with your child. It is based around the national curriculum learning objectives found in the year 4 'Living things and Habitats' topic. Download here: [Science Creates Outreach](#)

For secondary learners, the contents can be discussed in more depth using the original online article. **

ANIMAL REDISCOVERED IN VIETNAM!

A mouse-deer, did you know such a thing could exist? Back in November 2019, cameras in Vietnam took photos of this animal that had not been photographed for over 10 years.

Mouse-deer are a very rare type of animal, only found in Asia and Africa, and they are the smallest hoofed mammal in the world. The local community have known about the animals existence in a nearby forest, but scientists thought that they may have disappeared completely. And there is a reason for that - the intriguing little creature is under threat. The cutting down of trees in the forest where they live, known as deforestation, and people hunting and trapping the animals has meant that scientists are worried for the survival of the species. Now, scientists across the world, will be working together to protect the population of these fantastic animals, from hunters and the destruction of their homes.



Try it at home - Observe animals carefully!

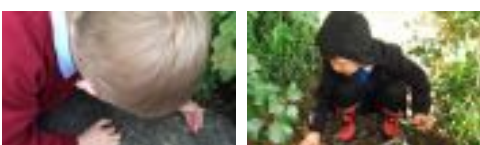
What do you need?

- Ideally a garden*
- A tupperware box or container
- A clean paintbrush (optional)
- A magnifying glass (optional)

* If you have a terrace or balcony then give that a try. If you do not have outside space, sit at a window, and try to identify every animal you see e.g. What breed of dog walked past? What type of bird was that?

What are you learning?

Have you really looked closely at living things? This activity is all about learning how to observe carefully. If you want to learn more about the science behind this, check out our lesson on our website - [Science Creates Outreach](#)



Instructions:

1. First, go slowly and quietly into your garden (always tell an adult first). You don't want to scare away any animals.
2. Next, crouch down next to flower pots, look under leaves, roll over stones and find dark corners where insects may be hiding. Top tip - snails like the backs and lips of flowerpots.
3. If you find one, gently try to put it in your container using a leaf, or gently brush it into your pot using the paintbrush, if you have one.
4. Then, look very closely at it. Use a magnifying glass if you have one. How many legs does it have? Does it have a shiny, hairy or hard body? Can you see its mouth or eyes or wings?
5. After that, and this is very important, put your living thing gently back where you found it, including rolling stones back over or putting flower pots back where they came from. Remember that is an animals home.
6. Repeat and find as many living things as you can





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What animal am I?

Riddle 1

I slide on my belly,
I live in the earth,
I don't have a spine,
And I like to eat dirt!

Riddle 2

I lay eggs underwater,
When they're born they'll start to swim.
Later in life,
They'll trade their gills in.
I'd rather walk than hop,
With my big, bumpy chin,
While I wade through the grass
I'll say with a grin...croak!

Riddle 3

Search mountains and woods,
There are many of my kind.
Big paws and a snout,
And it's them you will find.
You won't see me there, as I live in
neither,
My fur keeps me warm,
Through the cold arctic winter.

Riddle 4

I have a long beak for catching my
prey,
My grey and white feathers help
me fly every day.
Keep an eye out for me or soon
you'll see,
Just how far I will go to get my
way.

Riddle 5

I pull myself along with my 4
flippers,
I carry my home on my back and I
also have a tail.
I lay eggs in the sand, I have no
teeth.
You might see me swimming next
to a humpback whale.



Answers
1. Worm 2. Toad 3. Polar Bear 4. Seagull 5.
Turtle



Competition time

This weeks competition involves drawing. Do you think there is an animal out there that has not yet been discovered? What does it look like? What features does it have? Does it lay eggs or have fur? What animal group does it belong to?

Your competition entry should:

- be a drawing of an animal not yet discovered
- be annotated, to show the features
- have a name e.g. the tigerdinosaur
- include your first name and age e.g. Patrick, age 12.

Finally, take a photo of scan your invention and send to outreach@sciencecreates.co.uk.

The deadline for this issues competition is Thursday 14th May 2020.

Read, Watch, Ask



Have a read of our [lesson](#) to learn more about living things.



What is classification? Watch [here](#) to find out.



Got any questions about todays topic? Email us at info@sciencecreates-outreach.co.uk and we'll answer them!

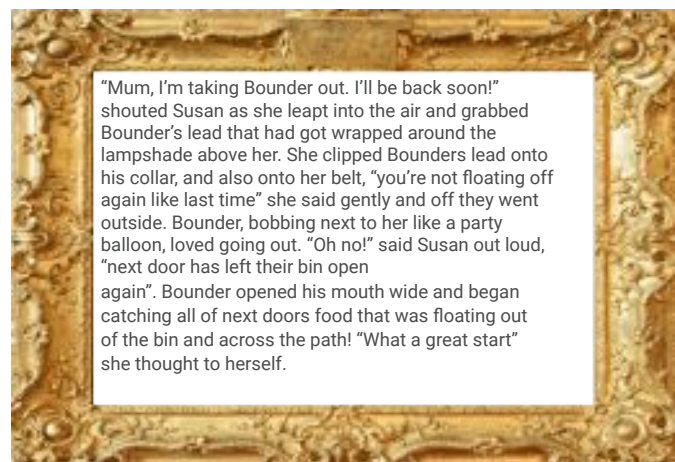


Did you know?

Spiders are not insects, they belong to a group called arachnids. Insects have six legs and their bodies are divided into three parts, while arachnids have eight legs and their bodies are divided into two parts. Other kinds of arachnids are scorpions, mites and ticks.

Last week's winner!

We had some amazing entries from last week's story starter competition. Congratulations to our winner, Rosa, age 11, for your funny story starter about a world with no gravity. We want to read the rest of the story now!



COMPETITION NOW CLOSED!