



Recycling Process



Werewolves



Mars Rover



Tiny Predators

Reading Booklet

Key Stage 2 Practice Reading Booklet

<http://www.literacyshedplus.com>



Hot Air Balloons

Tiny Predators

Some of the most fearsome creatures in nature are vicious predators. From crocodiles to sharks, alligators to lions, everybody is familiar with the big beasts. But what about the smaller predators that are just as deadly for their prey? Let's take a look at some of the tiny terrors.

SCORPIONS

Scorpions are eight-legged arachnids just like spiders. They are easily recognisable by their large grasping pincers and curved tail. There are currently around 1,750 named species of scorpion across the world, but only 25 or so are lethal to humans. Most scorpion stings won't require medical attention. However, for many smaller animals, the scorpion is a terrifying foe.

PISTOL SHRIMP

One of the most absurd looking animals is the pistol shrimp. Though there are hundreds of different species with slight variations, each pistol shrimp has one claw that is much larger than the other. This makes them look incredibly lopsided. However, that larger claw is no laughing matter for creatures of the deep. It is capable of snapping together fast enough to expel superheated bubbles of air at tremendous speeds, stunning or killing small animals who wander too close. The sound of the click can reach 210 decibels, which is far louder than a gunshot (at 150 decibels). The bubbles often reach temperatures hotter than the surface of the sun.

MONGOOSE

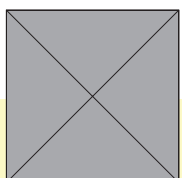
Hooded cobras are one of the most venomous snakes in the world. A single bite can kill a human in less than 30 minutes. These terrifying stats don't scare mongooses who attack, kill and eat cobras on a daily basis. Scientists aren't sure if mongooses are immune to the snake's venom, or if their thick skin and fur protects them from bites, but being able to eat one of the most dangerous reptiles on the planet definitely makes them fearsome predators.

PARASITIC WASPS

If you are a caterpillar or butterfly, there are few things as terrifying as a parasitic wasp. These tiny insects are specialists at invading the bodies and eggs of caterpillars and using them to grow their own young. Once a wasp has laid its eggs inside a host, there is nothing it can do except to wait for the young wasp larva to eat it from the inside. Many caterpillars have developed techniques to try to avoid the wasps, from hiding away to removing evidence that they are living somewhere. Unfortunately, the wasps are too clever for that. Lots of species have developed ways to insert their eggs into the cocoons of emerging caterpillars or the eggs laid by butterflies. At these times, the host is defenceless, and the wasp can attack.

BOX JELLYFISH

Perhaps not one of the smallest predators in the sea, but certainly one of the most overtly powerful, the box jellyfish is also one of the deadliest creatures in the world. Even though they only eat tiny shrimp, they have developed a venom powerful enough to kill a roomful of humans with a single sting. If a person is lucky enough to survive an attack, the marks from the tentacles will permanently scar them. Nobody knows why they have such powerful venom, but they are one of the most advanced jellyfish in the oceans. Unlike most species, box jellyfish can swim and have eyes on each side of their head.





1

Which word in the title describes a creature that eats another?

1 mark

2

a) Which word tells you that pistol shrimps are odd-looking?

1 mark

b) What is similar about all of the different species of pistol shrimps? Use evidence from the text to explain how this helps them.

2 marks

3

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

| | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Scorpions are related to spiders. | | |
| All scorpions are lethal to humans. | | |
| Hooded cobras are lethal to humans. | | |
| Parasitic wasps use caterpillars to incubate their eggs. | | |

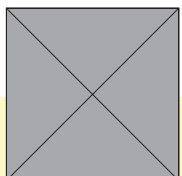
2 marks

4

Look at the section headed: **Box Jellyfish**.

Find and **copy one** word that shows how long a scar from a box jellyfish will last.

1 mark





5

How do parasitic wasps make sure they can insert their eggs if the caterpillar has avoided them?

1 mark

6

Look at the section titled: Mongoose.

Which words best describe the mongoose's attitude?

Tick **two**.

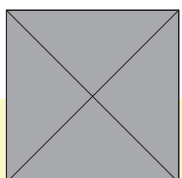
Wreckless

Brave

Courageous

Timid

2 marks



SATs Practice - Tiny Predators

1. Predator
2. a) Absurd (1 mark)
b) They all have one claw larger than the other (1 mark). This claw is a deadly weapon that allows them to stun or kill their prey easily and quickly (1 mark).
3. **Give 1 mark for two correct answers. Give 2 marks for three correct answers.**
True
False
True
True
4. Permanently
5. They insert them into the cocoon
6. Brave
Courageous