
Sea Animals

Reading Comprehension

The Seahorse

The seahorse is found living in tropical and temperate waters all around the world. This unusual-looking fish resembles a horse, which is how it got its name. This sea animal is truly a fish. It has a dorsal fin on the lower body and a pectoral fin on its head. It also has gills. This intriguing fish is endangered because it is overly hunted. The seahorse is used as medicine in Asian countries. Over 20 million seahorses are used each year for this purpose. The seahorse can also be kept in an aquarium under the right conditions. But outside of their natural environment, most seahorses are not able to survive.

The seahorse is known for its peculiar looks, but it is also different in how it reproduces. The male seahorse is the one that becomes pregnant. It takes anywhere from ten days to six weeks for the baby seahorse to develop. At least a hundred babies are born at this time, but only a few will mature to adulthood. One of the best ways the seahorse is able to survive is by hiding. A seahorse uses camouflage as a form of protection.

There are at least 30 different types of seahorses. They range in size from about three centimetres to about 30 centimetres long. There are a variety of colours and patterns found on seahorses. Some are beige and brown while others are bright orange or purple. The seahorse's diet consists of krill, zooplankton, and other tiny animals.

Story Questions:

1. Why does the author say that seahorses are interesting animals?
 - a. They eat krill.
 - b. They are related to the sea dragon.
 - c. They have interesting looks and the males reproduce.
 - d. They are made up of mostly water.

2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. the diet of the seahorse
 - b. the enemies of the seahorse
 - c. the colour of the seahorse
 - d. the reproduction of the seahorse

3. What is the meaning of the word *temperate* in the first paragraph?
- settled
 - unconcerned
 - bothered
 - moderate

Writing

4. It is time to save the seahorse! Choose one of the following tasks:
- ★ Write a paragraph explaining how you can help save the seahorses.
 - ★ Write a letter to someone asking for their help. Be sure to include suggestions for what this person can do to help.

Word Problems

5. **Read** the word problems below and **write** the answers.
- ★ Erica had 72 seahorse stickers. She gave 5 stickers each to 8 friends. How many stickers does Erica have left?
 - ★ Tessa wanted to help save the seahorses and signed up to clean up garbage from the ocean. She saved up \$40, and then she got \$19 for her allowance. Tessa spent \$6 on a pair of gloves, \$11 on a sun hat, and \$32 on a swim shirt. How much money does Tessa have left?
 - ★ The grade 6-8 students at Roden Elementary School are going on a trip to the aquarium to see the seahorses. There are 10 students in the seventh grade and twice that number in the eighth grade. There are 15 boys and 17 girls in the sixth grade. How many students will be going on the trip altogether?

Fun Stuff!

- [Click here to take a virtual tour of the National Aquarium in Baltimore!](#)
- [Immerse yourself in the ocean and national marine sanctuaries without getting wet!](#)