

UNIT 1 : The Fascinating World of Animals

Animals are cohabitants of our planet Earth. Since time immemorial, they have been our companions and have helped us in various ways. An astounding variety of unique, majestic, magnificent and even mysterious animals coexist with us. There are innumerable fascinating facts about animals—the strange and beautiful homes they build; extraordinary senses; strange strategies they adopt to protect themselves; uncanny migration of over thousands of miles by many birds and even some fishes; and many more. This section presents a miniscule display of enchanting and fascinating facets about some animals.

Wonders of the Sea

It is difficult to believe that an attractive and diverse universe of animals exists in the depths of oceans. Our existence relies heavily on hundreds and thousands of species found underwater.

Hey,
I'd like to go
right into the
deep blue water,
Vani.



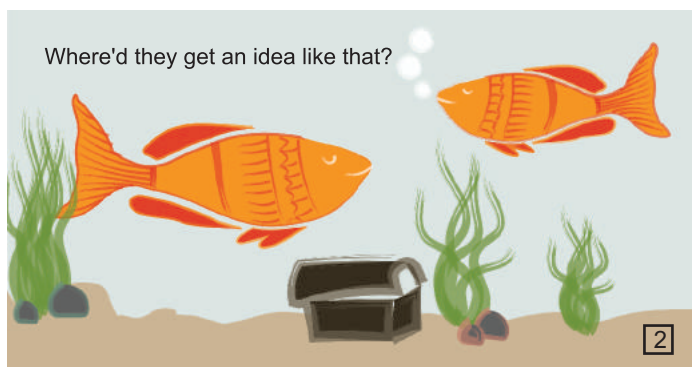
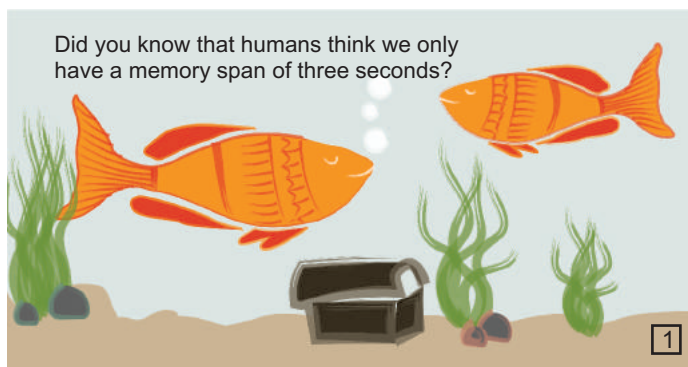
Aah, Yes!
Let's begin with
the goldfish,
Vijay.

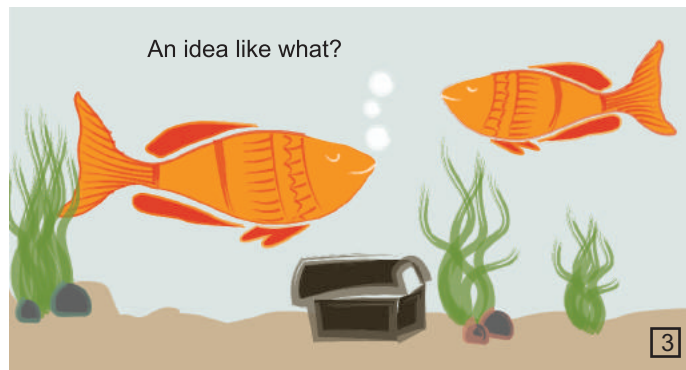


Section 1.1 An Ornamental Fish

An adaptable and intelligent creature, the goldfish has been a popular pet for thousands of years. Believed to be a symbol of luck and fortune, the goldfish has large eyes and a great sense of smell and hearing. They are smarter than what may meet the eye.

Look at the visuals and answer the questions that follow:





(1) Pick the option that lists the idea indicated in the visuals.

- A. He always remembers to water the wildflower outside. He has the memory of a goldfish.
- B. He comes up with innovative ways to present his ideas. He has the memory of a goldfish.
- C. He always mixes up his tenses while speaking. I think he has the memory of a goldfish.
- D. He has once again forgotten that he has put his glasses on his head. Gosh, he has the memory of a goldfish.

(2) The display suggests that the fish are in a/an

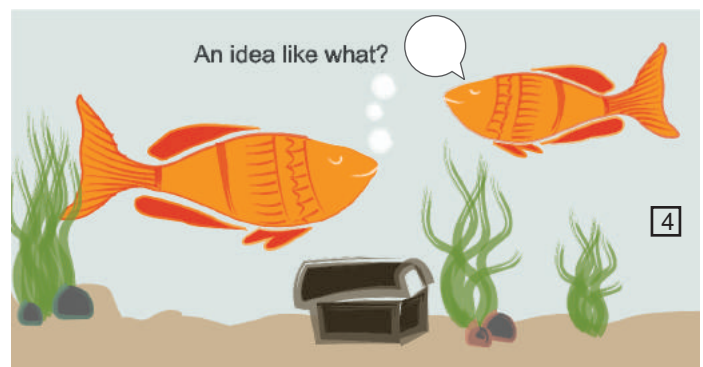
- A. pond.
- B. waterfall.
- C. aquarium.
- D. puddle.

(3) The phrase, 'a memory span of three seconds', would refer to

- A. a thought process that begins after 3 seconds of an action.
- B. a recollection that stretches for more than 3 seconds.
- C. the grouping of all possible ideas on a topic, within 3 seconds.
- D. a thought that is forgotten within 3 seconds of its origin.

(4) Select the option that lists the logical reply required in picture (4) given below.

- A. Like the original one.
- B. Is it a good idea?
- C. What are you talking about?
- D. The one that humans have.



Vani, did you know that the jokes about the 3 second memory of a goldfish are based on a myth?



Let me explain. Let's read about a simple experiment.



Really? How so? Everyone uses the idiom related to the memory of a goldfish, Vijay



Busting Myths!

A simple experiment was conducted by a 15-year-old schoolboy in Adelaide, Australia. When he would feed his pet goldfish, he would put a red piece of Lego in their fish tank and would sprinkle food around the Lego block. At first the fish seemed scared of the block, but after a couple of weeks the goldfish learned that the red block meant that food was coming and would swim straight towards it.

After the goldfish seemed to learn what the block meant, he then stopped using the Lego piece for 1 week. He then re-introduced the block, and the fish swam straight towards it in anticipation of food.

This was one of the many experiments showing that the goldfish 3 seconds memory is a myth.

Source: abc.net.au

Wasn't that interesting? Let me show you something beautiful now. Its from the seas and oceans again. It doesn't gallop or trot but swims and glides. Any guesses?



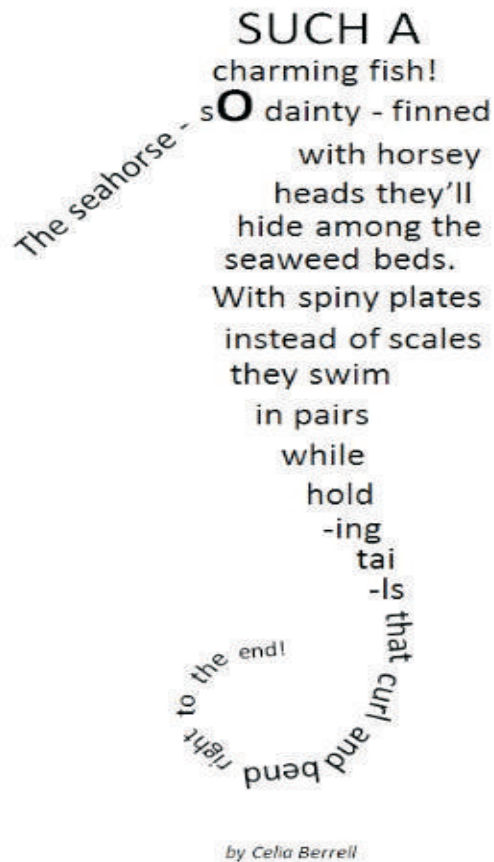
Looks like your'e talking about a horse. Wait, I know! The sea-horse!



Section 1.2 Seahorse

The Seahorse is unique not just because of its unusual horse-like shape, but because it is the only animal species on earth in which the male bears the unborn young. Found all over the world, they live in a variety of habitats ranging from coral reefs to sea grass patches.

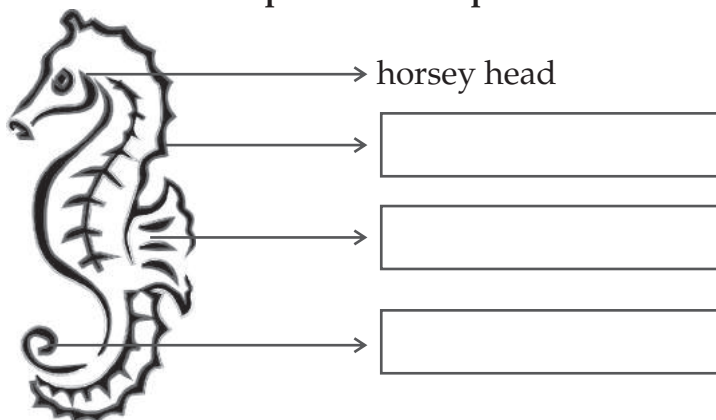
Read the poem carefully to answer the questions given below.



(1) Encircle two qualities that the poet associates with the seahorse.

solitary pleasant timid delicate joyful

(2) Use words from the poem to label parts of a sea horse. One has been done for you.



(3) The word 'beds' used in the poem refers to

(4) The poet begins the poem with a tone that is

- A. enquiring.
- B. critical.
- C. exclamatory.
- D. indifferent.

Did you know?

Seahorses have superb camouflage capabilities. They can change colour and grow little bumps and humps to match their surroundings.



Hey, I'd like to tell you a bit about turtles and tortoise too. Some more creatures associated with water.

Aren't they the same creature with different names?



Certainly not Vijay!
Let's read to find out.

Section 1.3 All in the Family!

Have you ever wondered what is the difference between turtles and tortoises? The Adventure Aquarium helps you understand these.

- (1) The Aquarium shared the information about differences in the form of a/an
- A. advertisement.
 - B. leaflet.
 - C. report.
 - D. article.

- (2) Adventure Aquarium breaks down their differences. Which is the dictionary meaning that best corresponds to the textual usage of the above underlined phrase?
- A. The physical decomposition of something.
 - B. A mechanical failure.
 - C. A failure of a relationship or system.
 - D. An explanatory analysis.

- (3) Nature has created most turtles with webbed feet because
- _____
- _____
- _____.

- (4) Based on the description of 'carapace' in the text, we can deduce that it is a reference to
- _____.

- (5) In the term 'laterally compressed', the word laterally refers to the compression from
- A. sides.
 - B. centre.
 - C. corners.
 - D. above.



KNOW THE DIFFERENCES

Turtle v. Tortoise

328
Number of turtle & tortoise species recognized by the IUCN in 2010.

What the shell?

It's the age-old question: What's the difference between a turtle and a tortoise? It's easy to get confused between these two shelled reptiles. Adventure Aquarium breaks down their differences.



TURTLE

A turtle is a reptile from the Chelonian family. Turtles spend most of their life in the water.

May be herbivorous, carnivorous, or omnivorous. Most are omnivorous or carnivorous.

Carapace is typically more laterally compressed and streamlined.

Most live in the water or are always found near it.

Most have webbed feet.



TORTOISE

A tortoise is a reptile from the Chelonian family. Tortoises spend most of their life on land areas.

Most are primarily herbivorous, but there are a few that are omnivorous.

Carapace is usually more dome-shaped.

Most are primarily terrestrial.

Feet are short and sturdy with bent legs.

A few other tidbits...

Water Lover

Turtles rarely leave the ocean, except when the females come ashore to lay their eggs.

Fun in the sun!

Other turtles live in fresh water. They swim, but they also climb out onto banks, logs, or rocks to bask in the sun.

Land Dweller

Tortoises that live in hot, dry habitats use their strong legs to dig burrows.

Throw me some shade!

When it gets to be too hot in the sun, tortoises prefer to slip underground for shade.

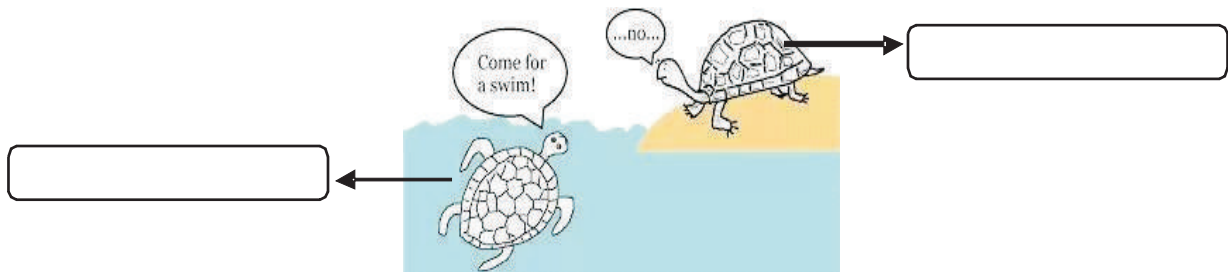
For more info:

For details on Turtles: Journey of Survival, visit Adventure Aquarium online: www.AdventureAquarium.com



Source: <https://adventureaquarium.wordpress.com/2013/01/28/turtles-vs-tortoises-an-infographic/>

(6) Identify the tortoise and turtle in the displayed cartoon according to the textual information.



(7) Identify other creatures from the animal world who suit these titles. A few have been done for you

Water Lover	Fun in the sun!	Land Dweller	Throw me some shade!
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	snake
<input type="text"/>	hippopotamus	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Did you know?

A group of tortoises is called a **creep**.

How amazing these animals are! I'd like to discover something about those slithery reptiles.



Aah! Okay. How about those kinds that strike fear among us? Let's read about Rock Pythons!



Section 1.4 African Rock Pythons

More than 3,000 species of snakes are found on the planet, of which about 600 species are venomous. Non-venomous snakes range from harmless garter snakes to not so harmless pythons, who swallow their victims alive or squeeze them to death.

Read the snippet about African Rock Pythons given below.

Africa's largest snake, the 20-foot-long African rock python can't be easily tamed like other snakes, such as the more commonly kept Burmese python. They're so ill-tempered that they come out of the egg striking.

While not as aggressive as a King Cobra, African rock pythons aren't docile animals. They strike quickly and unexpectedly as ambush predators, and they get territorial when it comes to things like feeding, nesting and protecting their young. They don't even like to live with others of their kind. They're solitary snakes.

African rock pythons are unique in the sense that they can survive just about anywhere. Unlike other snakes that are limited to specific types of environments, African rock pythons can thrive in deserts, forests and swamps alike.

That said, African rock pythons tend to congregate around places with water. They're usually found near rivers, lakes, streams and marshes. While they don't actually live in the water, they're good swimmers and can stay under the surface for a long time. This helps them to launch a surprise attack on their prey when other animals come to drink water.

Source : <https://api.nationalgeographic.com/distribution/public/amp/news/2013/8/130806-african-rock-python-snakes-canada-killed-boys-world>

(1) Which of the following features is NOT TRUE about the nature of the African rock python?

- A. Easily irritable
- B. Quiet and nervous
- C. Protective about its young ones
- D. Unsocial

(2) The distinctive aspect about an African rock python's habitat, as opposed to most type of snakes, is that _____

(3) Pick the option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence from the text.

African rock pythons tend to congregate around places with water.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| A. crawl | B. charge |
| C. collect | D. chase |

(4) Create three predator-prey combinations from the animals listed below.

deer	spider	rabbit	tiger	fox
elephant	monkey	fly	rhinoceros	

Predator	Prey
fox	
	deer

The Enchanting World of Insects

Whirling, buzzing, singing and vibrating with energy, they are all around us !

A remarkable variety of insects inhabit this planet. Insects can be found almost everywhere –on the highest mountains, at the bottom of running streams, in bubbling hot springs, and in the freezing cold south pole. They come in many different colours and shapes. They burrow through the ground, hop and sing on the trees, dart and dance in the air. Though ticks and some others like mosquitoes and fleas can transmit diseases, most insects are extremely useful to humans in pollinating crops, providing food for other creatures, breaking down natural materials into chemicals and nutrients for new life.



Section 1.5 The Robber Flies

There are interesting, incredible facts and stories about insects, one about Robber Flies is presented below.

Robber Flies eat fellow insects from the larvae to the adult stage in one of Nature's most carefully crafted mechanisms.

(by Abhishek Gulshan / The Hindu)

Throughout my life, and I'm afraid to say, even until sometime after I was introduced to nature and wildlife, I had the misconception that insects were dependent on plants for food. In 2016, I discovered the vicious Robber Fly at the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram. With over 7,000 species described, the world of these Robber Flies, is so diverse that an entire family, Asilidae, has been created for them. They're named for their feeding behaviour: they 'rob' other insects of their lives!

They come in various colours but the ones found in Delhi-NCR are mostly brown and black. Although humans may only be able to see two large compound eyes on heads of Robber Flies, they do have three small simple eyes (called ocelli) wedged between those two big eyes. There's also a bristly moustache — more than a fashion statement, this deters struggling prey from causing damage to the Robber Fly.

Their agile flight, impeccable eyesight, quick reflexes, and strong spiny legs help them catch insects in flight: other flies, beetles, grasshoppers, butterflies, moths, carnivorous dragonflies. They even feast on spiders sometimes. They pierce their strong dagger-like proboscis (tubular straw-like organ to take in food) into their prey, usually between the head and thorax, to subdue them. They inject victims with their saliva containing neurotoxic enzymes to paralyze, and proteolytic enzymes to liquify the innards of their prey. They then fly off with the prey between their legs to an undisturbed branch, where they suck the innards through the proboscis.



They patiently stalk other insects from vantage points and make a swift yet graceful, silent flight on the first opening they see. It took me almost two years to actually see this opportunistic assassin hunt another black fly in air. This behaviour has also brought them their other name: Assassin Flies.

Robber Flies lay their eggs in plants close to the ground or in nooks and crannies of soil or wooden barks. When their eggs hatch, the larvae generally lives in the soil or in wood and is predatory in nature, feeding on eggs and larvae of other insects. In short, the species in both larvae as well as the adult stage is a bane for other beings.

I always thought I'd have to be in the wilder areas of the city to see this magnificent creature but I recently saw it in an urban park in front of my house. These predators maintain a delicate balance in the food chain and also help to rid your backyard of pests.

(1) What does the given line from the text tell you about the writer?

'I had the misconception that insects were dependent on plants for food.'

- A. He had read studies that robber flies avoided feeding on plants.
- B. He used to believe that the robber flies survived on a plant diet.
- C. He had doubts that robber flies ate only the plants that they lived in.
- D. He used to observe how robber flies ate specific plants.

(2) Which option lists the image that justifies your understanding of 'wedged between'?



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

- A. Image (i)
- B. Image (ii)
- C. Image (iii)
- D. Image (iv)

(3) Select the option that correctly sequences the manner in which the robber flies prey :

- (i) Descend silently upon the prey.
- (ii) Suck on the liquified internal organs.
- (iii) Fly off with the prey.
- (iv) Pierce the prey.
- (v) Stalk the prey.
- (vi) Wait for an opportune moment.
- (vii) Inject the prey with enzymes

Options

- A. i, v, iii, vii, iv, vi, ii
C. v, vi, i, iv, vii, iii, ii

- B. i, v, vi, ii, vii, iii, iv
D. iii, v, iv, vi, i, ii, vii

(4) According to the given text, if the robber fly were to order food in an insect restaurant, which are the food items it would NOT order?



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



(v)



(vi)

Options

- A. (iv) & (vi)
C. (ii) & (iv)

- B. (i) & (v)
D. (iii) & (v)

(5) Pick the option that is TRUE about the birth of robber flies.

- A. Eggs are usually laid among the roots of trees.
B. Upon hatching, the larvae feed upon new leaves.
C. Cracks in soil make a good place for laying eggs.
D. The hatched larvae stay hungry till it becomes a cocoon.

(6) The text reveals that the writer finds these insects

- A. weak.
B. fascinating.
C. burdensome.
D. pleasant.

Gosh! What do we do if we get bitten by one?



Well, Robber Flies deliver a painful bite, so be careful with them. They don't "go after" humans, but if you mishandle them, they might bite. Their bite injects digestive enzymes and a painful venom. If one lands on you, just don't slap it — instead, brush it away lightly.



Goodness, Vani! I hope I never encounter one!



You look worried. Let me share something to make you happy. How about some fun? Funny Doggy titles? Have a look!



Section 1.6 Doggy Job Titles

Did you know, that dogs are considered as Human's first pet? Being swift and having strong jaws, they were of great use in hunting and guarding duties. Pets have been a source of companionship and pleasure from the earliest periods of domestication.

Study the cartoons and fill in the blanks. Select words from the box. You have been given extra words.

exaggerated cleaning licking jumping insulting
barking humorous true

- (1) The titles for the dog are for _____ effect.
- (2) The dog, because of his _____, act as a natural guard.
- (3) By _____ onto his human parent, often he acts as a massager.
- (4) He helps to keep the floor clean by _____ up all the crumbs.
- (5) The tone of the cartoonist, when he calls the dog a distribution manager is an example of _____ humour.



Source: comedycard.co.uk

Did you know?

Dogs can be trained as 'guides' to support the visually impaired.

I've always wanted a dog as a pet. My grandparents used to have birds as pets though.



I know Vijay. Some people like having birds as pets. Let's read something interesting about a particular type of parrot.



Section 1.7 Blushing Parrots

A cute, colourful companion is the parrot. Found in warm climates almost all over the world, these parrots are a diverse species. Be it a macaw, parakeet, cockatoo and many others, all of them have curved beaks and can mimic and imitate many sounds including human speech.

Ever heard of the blushing parrots? There are some interesting facts about parrots that blush :

1. Parrots may blush and ruffle their head feathers to communicate visually, according to a study which helps better understand the complex social lives of these highly intelligent birds. Researchers in France studied five hand-reared captive blue-and-yellow macaws interacting with one another and with their human caretakers.
2. They assessed their feather position-ruffled or sleeked-on the crown, nape, and cheek, as well as the presence or absence of blushing on the bare skin of the cheek. They found that feather ruffling was more common when the birds were not in motion, such as during social interactions and resting periods.
3. Blushing may not be a characteristic unique to humans: the featherless cheek of the blue-and-yellow macaw parrot reveals rapid skin color changes in situations associated with emotion. The macaw's particularly complex face enabled communication of emotion via colour and feather displays.
4. Crown feather ruffling and blushing were both more common when the human caretaker was actively interacting with the parrot by talking and maintaining eye contact than when the keeper was in the room but ignoring and turning their backs to the bird. Together, these results suggest that head feather ruffling is associated with positive social interactions.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/parrots-blush-when-happily communicating/article24779365.ece>

(1) Match the titles below to the four paragraphs given above. There are two extra titles given.

(a) Colour me pink

(b) Facial features

(c) Studying the birds

(d) Beautiful France

(e) Talk to me, human!

(f) Birds of a feather!

Para 1

Para 2

Para 3

Para 4

(2) The word 'characteristic' used in the paragraph is NOT the same as and

A. attribute.

B. feature.

C. quality.

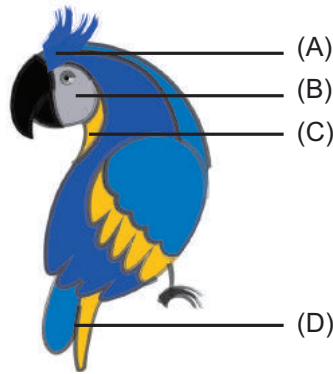
D. trait.

E. phase.

F. aspect.

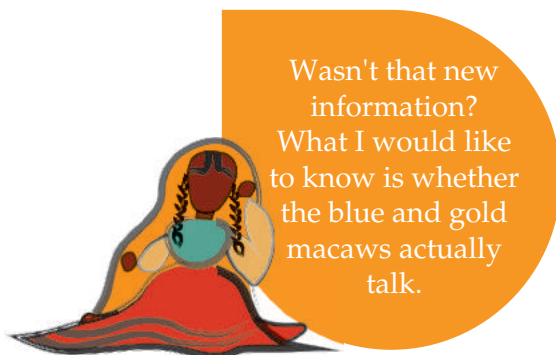
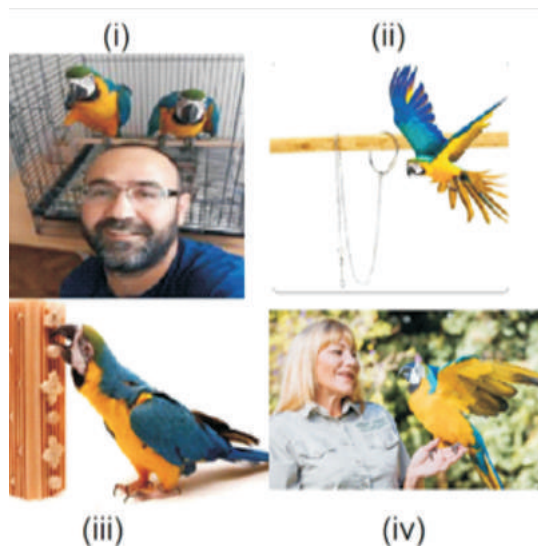
G. level.

(3) Encircle the feather position NOT evaluated for the research.



(4) Pick the option that lists the image showing the situation when crown feather ruffling and blushing were common.

- A. Option (i)
- B. Option (ii)
- C. Option (iii)
- D. Option (iv)



Wasn't that new information?
What I would like to know is whether the blue and gold macaws actually talk.



Oh! I see.
Thanks, Vijay.
Could we now please read a poem about the Zebra?
It's a funny one.
My favourite.
Let's read it.

I can explain that. You see, the blue and gold macaws can learn a vocabulary of around 20 words and phrases. They can learn to imitate sounds and words. So, they cannot really talk, only mimic. Given the clarity of their voice, many people consider them to be one of the best talking parrots.



Section 1.8 The Zebra Question

Another cool, social animal which spends time in herds, grazes together, and even grooms one another is the zebra. Their black and white striped body gives them an elegant and distinctive look.

Shel Silverstein weaves into poetry an interesting encounter between a boy and zebra.

"I asked the zebra,
Are you black with white stripes?
Or white with black stripes?
And the zebra asked me,
Are you good with bad habits?
Or are you bad with good habits?
Are you noisy with quiet times?
Or are you quiet with noisy times?
Are you happy with some sad days?
Or are you sad with some happy days?
Are you neat with some sloppy ways?
Or are you sloppy with some neat ways?
And on and on and on and on
And on and on he went.
I'll never ask a zebra
About stripes . . . again."



- (1) The poet, Shel Silverstein decides to write a diary entry describing his not-so-pleasant conversation with the Zebra. Complete the entry given below by choosing the correct option for the blanks.

It was a beautiful morning and I was all excited to visit the zoo and interview Mr. Zebra for the school magazine. He was our ANIMAL OF THE MONTH. But fate had something else in store. I asked Mr. Zebra (i) _____, but instead of answering what I'd asked, he (ii) _____ my way.

- (i) A. if he would prefer black spots to white stripes
B. what he felt about his unique coloured body
C. to clarify which of the two- stripes or body- was black
D. when he had developed the black and white stripes

- (ii) A. laid out several other problems of his
 B. first wanted to know how I'd figure it out
 C. enquired how I did things
 D. hurled a volley of questions
- (2) Which of the following could be another set of questions that the zebra could have asked the poet?
- A. Are you tall? Or are you short?
 B. Are you taller than those short? Or are you shorter than those tall?
 C. Are you almost as tall as other? Or are you the tallest?
 D. Are you hoping to be tall? Or are you hoping to be short?
- 3) Which line from the poem confirms that the zebra asked many more questions than just the ones shared by the poet?
-
- 4) Based on the visual, it is clear that the zebra is caged.
- (i) List any three words that describe what he might be feeling.
-

- (ii) Complete the table given below about keeping animals in a zoo.

Positives	Negatives

You were right, Vani! It was a humorous poem indeed. Did you know that each zebra's stripes are as unique as our fingerprints – no two are exactly alike. And yes, did you know that a group of zebras is called a 'zeal'?



'Zeal'? Wow! Glad you liked the poem. Let me share some details about another black and white but cuddly creature – the Panda.



Section 1.9 Giant Pandas

Giant Pandas are known as 'charismatic megafauna' for a reason. These endangered animals ooze star power, a factor that conservationists have capitalized on, in order to fund projects to protect them (and, often by default, the other organisms that share their complex ecosystems). People are far more likely to donate money to save an adorable panda or a magnificent tiger than they are to, on preserving creatures like the Gerlach's cockroach. However, roaches are integral participants in the ecosystems, and just as deserving of assistance as their flashier compatriots. And if the concept of trickle down conservation troubles you, get to work on that 'Save the Gerlach cockroach' campaign. I'd donate, maybe.

You might then consider the animals on the list, 'charismatic megafauna' as the A-listers whose box office draw, finances the continued existence of the lesser-known character actors who inhabit the same environments.

Everyone loves a panda. They might be the most artsy animals humanity has driven to the brink of extinction. From stuffed animals to martial arts-trained CGI creation, we just can't seem to get enough of the bi-colored beasts. Though their 'aww factor' may be excessively sweet, it hasn't been without effect.

China, which is home to the remaining wild population of fewer than 2,500 individuals, has since the late 1980s instituted more stringent habitat protection and poaching has all but ceased. Their status is still shaky, though. Their range is fragmented and they are still subject to disease, occasional predation, and starvation when large areas of the bamboo on which they feed completes its life cycle and dies.

Source: www.britannica.com

(1) Giant Pandas have 'star power' because

- A. they are great actors.
- B. they are adorable to look at.
- C. movie stars donate for their conservation.
- D. they are named after a star.

(2) When the writer says 'I'd donate. Maybe.' he is trying to

- A. encourage others to donate money for saving the Gerlach's cockroach.
- B. decide whether he wants to donate to a campaign to save the Gerlach's cockroach.
- C. make a point about how raising funds to save pandas will always win over saving cockroaches.
- D. support the cause of saving the Pandas by perhaps donating money.

(3) The pandas are still on the endangered list because

- A. the Chinese government has not done enough to save them.
- B. not enough funds are collected for their conservation.
- C. they are killed in large numbers by the poachers.
- D. they often starve to death with the destruction of bamboo forests.

(4) Which option lists a sentence using 'ooze' the same way as in paragraph 1 of the text?

- A. I picked a fruit and watched the ooze drip out from the stem.
- B. Everyone who meets the elderly counsellor agrees that she just oozes charm.
- C. The abandoned construction site was partially covered in garbage and ooze.
- D. The doctor warned that the insect bites would ooze if left unattended.

(5) CGI creations can be seen in

- A. in books.
- B. on posters.
- C. in movies.
- D. on labels.

We've come to know so much about different creatures, but I worry about their safety.

So many of them are endangered. Wish we had a special day to remind everyone to conserve all creatures.



We do have a special day for this. Let's read the next section and find out.



Section 1.10 – National Endangered Species Day

Time is running out for some animal species. Habitat destruction and climate change are leading to extinction of some species. The text below provides information about the endangered animal species in India.

National Endangered Species Day is celebrated each year on the third Friday of May, across the country, to raise awareness about the endangered species of flora and fauna. This day helps us review how many animal species are under the threat of extinction and how the drastic effects of climate change are disturbing the once peaceful ecosystem.

This day gives us the opportunity to be more aware about the conservation of endangered species and learn about the different steps the country is taking to properly protect these animals.

Here are seven animal species that are endangered in India, as of 2020.

1. Asiatic Lion

The Asiatic Lion is one of the mightiest species of lion in the world. The entire population of the species can now only be found in India and is restricted to the Gir National Park and environs in Gujarat. The IUCN* Red List has declared the animal endangered because of the constant decrease of its population since 2010. The total number of Asiatic Lions left in the country are now just 650.

2. Bengal Tiger

Referred to as the 'Big Cat' in our country, the Bengal Tiger has 70 percent of its overall population living in India. Due to the rigorous poaching instances in India, the species became endangered in the last 4 years. Corbett National Park has a large number of Bengal Tigers currently, though the overall number of these tigers in India are down to around 2000.

3. Snow Leopard

The snow leopard is a large cat which used to be found in large numbers in the mountain ranges

**The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species. It uses a set of criteria to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species and subspecies.*

of Asia, but because of constant human interference in their natural environment, the number of snow leopards have dropped down to almost 500. These cats can now be spotted only in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the western and eastern parts of the Himalayas.

4. Nilgiri Tahr

The Nilgiri Tahr is an endangered mountain goat species, which is now found in some areas of Kerala. These creatures need open grasslands with limited trees to survive. The species became endangered due to continuous poaching and lack of natural habitats for them. They are considered as the state animal of Tamil Nadu but are now having trouble finding a home in the state. There are around 2500 Nilgiri Tahrs left in the world now and their numbers are decreasing due to harmful human activities.

5. Kashmiri Red Stag

The Kashmiri Red Stag also known as Hangul, have been critically endangered for decades. The animal is found in dense riverine forests of the high valleys in Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. The number of Kashmiri red stags had fallen as low as 150 in 1970 but since then, there have been many conservation drives conducted to protect this critically endangered species in our country. Now the numbers have risen by 60-70%.

6. Blackbuck

The blackbuck is also known as the Indian antelope and is found in several regions of India, Nepal and Pakistan. The species has also been declared extinct in Bangladesh and is now endangered in India due to heavy poaching and tampering of its natural environment. The blackbuck can now only be seen in small herds in the country with their population reduced to around 6000. As a conservative measure, it has been introduced in Argentina and the United States to increase their number.

7. One-horned rhinoceros

The one horned rhino is also called the Indian rhinoceros and is listed as a vulnerable species by the IUCN. The animal is mostly found in the foothills of Himalayas, in India and in Nepal. They are usually poached for their horns, which allegedly have medicinal properties. Due to constant poaching, the numbers have decreased over time, with now more than 2000 such rhinos remaining in the wild. Now they are being conserved in several wildlife sanctuaries and parks in the nation.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in the year 2020, the National Endangered Species Day was celebrated through online campaigns and events.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/national-endangered-species-day-2020-here-are-7-endangered-animal-species-in-india-1678339-2020-05-15>

(1) According to the given text, select the option that lists the statement that does not correspond to what the National Endangered Species Day aims at:

- A. evaluating the number of animal species that face extinction.
- B. analyzing the impact of climate change on the environment.
- C. developing awareness about the protection of endangered flora and fauna.
- D. volunteering with various animal conservation organizations.

(2) The text lists 7 endangered species. Arrange these in decreasing order, based on their current numbers.

Animal	Order
Asiatic Lion	
Bengal Tiger	
Snow leopard	
Nilgiri tahr	
Kashmiri Red Stag	
Black buck	
One-horned rhino	

(3) Select the option that has FALSE details about the animals given in the text.

(i) The Asiatic Lion, in India, can be found only in the Gir National Park.

(ii) Poaching has been the main reason for reduction in the numbers of the one-horned rhino.

(iii) The Kashmiri Red stag has hardly been the subject of any conservation drives.

(iv) The decline in the numbers of the snow leopard is a result of rising human interference with their natural habitats.

(v) In India, currently, the blackbucks can only be spotted as solitary creatures in the wild.

(vi) The Corbett National Park houses most of India's tiger population.

- A. i and iv
- B. ii and iii
- C. iii and v
- D. iv and vi

(4) Help the Nilgiri Tahr find its natural habitat and write the number in the space given below.



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



(v)

(5) Encircle the option(s) that are false/odd one out with reference to the meaning of the underlined word in the sentence, '...which allegedly have medicinal properties.'

- i. apparently
- ii. presumably
- iii. factually
- iv. supposedly
- v. evidently
- vi. clearly
- vii. seemingly

Extinction is hard to see. According to IUCN Red list of threatened species, over 26,500 species are in danger of extinction. Extinction has myriad implications. Extinction of species affects the ecosystem and everything around us becomes a bit more fragile while it adapts to change. Alteration of ecosystem has cascading effects—jeopardizing pollination; endangering the food chain, loss of the therapeutic riches and destroying livelihoods.

Let us join hands to protect and conserve the beautiful creatures of our animal world.