

Teacher's Guide for ASK

October 2013: Expect the Unexpected

This guide was prepared by Betty Lou Askin, a retired educator who lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Objectives:

- To learn about and appreciate some unusual creatures
- To gain an appreciation of how some creatures are able to adapt to their environment
- To appreciate how unusual festivities provide people with fun and amusement

Pre-reading:

- Let the students suggest what they think might be included in this issue of **ASK** based on the title.
- Ask them what they think is happening on the cover.
- View the Contents page and discuss the illustrations and the article titles.
- Ask the students to develop a **KWL Chart**, What I Know, What I Want to Learn, and What I Learned. Begin by recording in the first two columns of the chart.

Scoops:

Cats Will Be Cats

- What did a researcher find in a European library?
- Explain what the kitty did.

Teen Builds Submarine

- Describe Justin's submarine.
- What is the submarine able to do?
- What is a tinkerer?
- Explain how Justin went about building his submarine.

Hatch a Batch

- Explain why Troodon's eggs were different from top to bottom.

Nestor's Dock

- In your opinion, why did the friends win the quiz show?
- Why was the moderator upset?

Oddball All Stars

Turn up the Heat

Use these questions to focus on the reading: (Key ideas and Details, Making Inferences)

- Describe how hot it can be in the Galapagos Islands.
- How do the scientists think that the penguins got to the tropics?
- What are adaptations?
- Why is the heat more of a problem for penguins/birds?
- How do these tropic penguins keep cool during the day?
- Use your own words and write a paragraph to describe how Galapagos penguins keep cool on the land.
- How do they protect their eggs from the sun?
- Tell how the scientists know how many penguins there are on the island.

- Research:
The students might do further research especially about the northern penguins and develop a chart of comparison between the two types. Include topics such as food, size, skin covering and eggs.

Foul Ball

- How do green plants make food?
- Explain how the stinking corpse lily gets its food.
- Why must the stinking corpse lily steal food?
- Describe the corpse lily flower.
- Tell why the corpse lily uses its smell.

The Changeup

- What are **chloroplasts**?
- Why do elysia sea slugs stay in shallow water?
- Describe the stages from birth to young adulthood for the elysia sea slugs.
Explain how a young adult elysia sea slug acts like a vampire.
- Explain why an elysia sea slug can live where there is no available food.
- Describe how Mary Rumpho made an advancement in the study of the elysia sea slug.

A Whole New Ballgame

- Why are Mudskippers not like most fish?
- Where do Mudskippers live?
- Describe what happens at high and low tides.
- Explain how the Mudskippers have adapted to their environment.
- Tell how they breathe.
- Why do they have huge eyes?
- Explain how they keep their eyes moist.
- How do Mudskippers crawl?
- Tell how a male courts a female Mudskipper.

Key Ideas, Details and Integration:

Using the information you learned about how creatures adapt to their environment choose one that you would like to be. Explain why by describing that creature's habits and habitats.

Create a how to protect yourself list of ways for each of the creatures.

Let`s Play Stump the Scientists!

Ideas to use with this article:

- Tell one way that scientists might be able to recognize a fossil.
- Use a Read-Aloud Method with this article. Students could take turns reading the various information. They might need help with the names. There could be one narrator to introduce each section. The female scientist might also be one student.
- Creative Work:
In the `News Flash from the Future` future creatures are shown. Let the students create their own ideas of future creatures. They might also write a paragraph describing activities of such creatures.

New! Improved! Watermelon!

Questions to assist with a discussion:

- Describe how square watermelons are created.
- Explain why square watermelons are preferred.
- What is the negative side of growing square watermelons?

- Describe what tells a watermelon how to grow.
- Explain how scientists have altered the DNA of watermelons to produce seedless ones.
- Why are seedless watermelons a good thing to eat?
- What is the drawback to these melons?
- Describe how scientists have developed a mini melon.
- Write an Opinion:
Tell all the reasons why you would choose one of the watermelons in this article.

Imo Tries Something New

Questions to consider:

Use a Map of the World to show the location.

- Where does this story take place?
- Why are the scientists there?
- Why did the scientists use sweet potatoes?
- Tell how the snow monkeys go about eating the sweet potatoes.
- How did Imo get rid of the sand on her sweet potato?
- Who copies Imo's idea to wash the sweet potato?
- Describe Imo's second idea.
- Why do you think that the older monkeys did not follow Imo's ideas?
- Explain what happened with the wheat.
- Creative Work:
The students might write a news report or a magazine article about the intelligence shown by Imo.

Weird Webbed Wonder

An idea to consider:

- Activity:
Role-playing. Let the students work in pairs, each one taking one of the roles-Nosy News, Ms. Platypus. They could read quietly and then switch roles.

Seasons of Silliness

Reading for information:

- Describe Saturnalia's activities.
- What other name was given to this event?
- Explain why slaves liked this feast.
- Why did the slaves also need to be careful?
- What happened when the Roman Empire became Christian?
- Tell about boy bishops.
- Tell about what may have happened to anger a French monk.
- What custom still exists in some English cathedrals?
- What did "Feast of Fools" mean in the Middle Ages?
- Describe what happened at this feast.
- Why do you think that they celebrated Christmas for 12 days?
- Describe the role of the Lord of Misrule.
- What happens at Mardi Gras/Carnival?
- Explain how trick or treat happened in the Middle Ages.
- Who is Robby Novak?

What's That?!?

Activity:

Follow the instructions and create your own creature. Share your work with your classmates. Make a bulletin board display with the art.

Jimmy the Bug

- Make a list of the reasons why we eat. There are many more than mentioned in this article. Add your own ideas to the list.

Marvin and Friends

- Why did Plush not accept her gift?
- Who did appreciate her present?

Culminating Activities

- Complete the **KWL Chart** if it was used during the reading of this magazine. This final section of the chart could also be completed after reading each article.
- Choose 5 things from this magazine that you have learned about. Pretend that you are going to share your knowledge with someone who has not read this issue of the magazine. Write a short paragraph about each of your chosen topics using the information found in the articles.