## Home Letter

## Amazing Animals

Home Letter

## Dear Family,

This week, we'll be using literature to learn about some interesting animals. Our class will look into the question "Why do some animals have spots or stripes?" We'll read the informational text Amazing Animals and learn about what eight different animals have to help them as they grow up. Then we'll enjoy the classical fairy tale The Ugly Duckling.

## This week's..

Words to Know: baby, begins, eight, follow, learning, until, years, young

Phonics Skills: $r$-Controlled vowels er, ir, ur

Vocabulary Strategy: Using a dictionary entry

Comprehension Skill: Conclusionsuse details to figure out more about the text

Comprehension Strategy: Visualizepicture what is happening as you read

Writing Focus: Narrative writing-story sentences

## Activities to Do Together

## Vocabulary

Ask your child to use this week's Words to Know to tell you how a polar bear's white fur helps.

Animal Match
Talk about other animals that might share the same special features as the ones mentioned in Amazing Animals. Discuss, for example, how the spots on a giraffe help it hide. Ask your child to name other animals that have spots.

My Pet
Discuss an animal that your child would like to have as a pet. Have your child write a few sentences telling how he or she would care for the pet.
> cos
> Digital
> Go to the eBook to read and listen to this week's selection.
$\qquad$

## Weekly To-Do List

Put an $X$ in each box when you finish the activity.


## I read . . .

| $\square$ Monday |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ Tuesday |  |
| $\square$ Wednesday |  |
| $\square$ Thursday |  |
| $\square$ Friday |  |

## Words to Know

Listen to each question. Answer each question with a word from the box.

1. Which word would you use to tell about

## a baby?

2. Which word would you use to count
past seven? $\qquad$

## Word Bank

 baby begins eight follow learning3. Which word would you use to tell what you
are doing in school? $\qquad$
4. Which word would you use to tell your age?
$\qquad$

$\qquad$
5. Which word would you use to tell when something starts?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Words to Know

Amazing Animals
High-Frequency Words

Write a sentence for four of the words from the box.

## Word Bank

| baby | begins | eight | learning |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| until | young | years | follow |

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## Words with er, ir, ur

Amazing Animals
Phonics: $r$-Controlled Vowels er, ir, ur

Write the word with er, ir, or ur that completes each sentence.

2. I spoke to the $\qquad$

3. Kelly wore her new $\qquad$

4. Cats $\qquad$ but dogs bark.


## Amazing Animals

Phonics: $r$-Controlled Vowels $e r, i r, u r$

Write a sentence using each word.

## 1. turtle

$\qquad$

$\qquad$
$\qquad$


$\qquad$
2. clerk


$\qquad$
3. skirt
$\qquad$

$\qquad$

## Comprehension

Answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the article "Amazing Animals."
(1) What does the hair of a polar bear look like?

(2) Why does a polar bear need thick fur?
$\bigcirc$ Fur helps the polar bear find food.
O The polar bear wants to stand out.
The polar bear lives in a cold place.
(3) Which word in the sentence below BEST helps you understand what tusks are?

Elephants use their tusks to scrape bark off trees.
Olephants
O their
○ scrape
(4) What could an elephant use its tusks for?
$\bigcirc$ to hide
O to keep warm
o to dig for food
(5) Why does a camel need to use the fat in its hump for food?

O It does not like to eat.
O It does not have time to eat on a trip.
There is not much to eat in the desert.
(6) Which part of the article helps you know what a duck's beak looks like?

O the heading
O the author's words
O the photo of a duck
(7) Why would a giraffe need to hide?

O so it can play hide and seek
O so it can catch leaves that fly away
O so animals that hunt the giraffe cannot see it
(8) How do the quills of a porcupine keep it safe from other animals?

The quills trap animals.
The long quills trip animals.
$\bigcirc$ The sharp ends poke animals.
(9) Where does a dolphin live?

$\bigcirc$

$\bigcirc$


0
(10) What helps a dolphin swim fast?
$\bigcirc$ fins
$\bigcirc$ flippers
Oflukes

Mark Student Reading Level:
$\qquad$ Independent $\qquad$ Instructional $\qquad$ Listening

## Newborn Baby Bird

Look at the picture. Take turns reading each line of the chant with your partner.

A baby bird hatches.
It begins to cry.
Its mother will feed it
until it can fly!
The bird follows its mother.
She protects it all day.
It's still too young
to fly far away.


# Background Mother birds lay eggs. Then they sit on the eggs to keep them warm. That helps the eggs to hatch. 

Setting a Purpose Read to find out about a special baby bird born in Mother Duck's nest.


I Read Underline the words that tell when the story happens.

## Once upon a time, a duck

 sat on eight eggs. One day, all but one of the eggs hatched. The ducks waited until the last baby bird came out. He was big and gray. The other ducks thought he was ugly.2 Reread Reread page 91. Find the detail that tells what the last baby bird looks like. Write it below.

3 Read How does the ugly duckling feel? Circle the word.

## ducklings:

# Each day the ducklings would follow Mother Duck. They were learning to be ducks. The other ducks did not want to play with the ugly duckling. He felt sad. One day he left. 

Winter soon came. A farmer found the ugly duckling. "I must take you home before it begins to snow," he said.

4 Reread Where does the farmer take the ugly duckling? Write it below.

5 Read Underline the sentence that tells what happens to the swans at the end of the story.

When spring came, the farmer took the duckling to a pond. The duckling saw himself in the water. He felt like many years had passed. He had changed!

Now he knew he was not an ugly duckling. He was a young swan. He and the other swans lived happily ever after.

## SHORT RESPONSE

Cite Text Evidence Reread pages 91-93. Why is the ugly duckling happy at the end of the story? Write it below.

## Lesson



## Words

## to Know

- Read each Context Card.
- Make up a new sentence that uses a blue word.


## learning

This baby giraffe is
learning how to walk.
Talk About Words
Work with a partner. Use the blue words in complete sentences to tell about something you did.

These owls can't fly until they are older.

(5)

The young hippo will be very big soon.


7

## years

An elephant can live for seventy years.

(4) eight

The eight little swans go for a swim.

## follow

The bear cubs follow their mother.


8 baby
This baby panda is eating plants.

# Read and Comprehend 

## © TARGET SKILL

Conclusions Sometimes authors do not tell all the details. Readers must use text evidence from the words and pictures and think about what they already know to make a smart guess about what the author does not tell. This smart guess is a conclusion. Use a chart to write details and conclusions about what you read.


## TARGET STRATEGY

Visualize As you read, picture in your mind what is happening to help you understand.

## PREVIEW THE TOPIC

## Animals

Animals have special body parts that help them do amazing things. Kangaroos have strong legs that help them jump very far. Some monkeys can use their tails to hang from branches.
Anteaters have long noses they use to grab insects under the dirt. You will read more interesting facts about animals in Amazing Animals.

## Think Write Pair Share

Think about an amazing animal. Why is it amazing? Complete the sentence:

## ___ is amazing because

$\qquad$ . Share with a partner. Act out what makes the animal amazing.

## ANCHOR TEXT

Meet the Author

## Gwendolyn Hooks

Gwendolyn Hooks wrote this story because she loves animals. "This story is about wild animals," she explains.
"I don't own any wild animals, but I do have a pet cat."




## Polar Bear

A polar bear has thick fur. Each hair is like a tube. The hair has no color, like glass. The sun makes it look white.

How does thick, white fur help?

## ANALYZE THE TEXT

Conclusions How do you think the color of their fur helps polar bears?


Thick fur helps polar bears stay warm. The color of their fur looks the same as snow. This helps them hide.

Where does this cute young polar bear like to hide?

## ANALYZE THE TEXT

## Using Context What are

 tusks? How do elephants use their tusks?

Elephants use their tusks to scrape bark off trees. Then they eat the bark. These elephants are learning to use their trunks to get water.

Sometimes they will spray water at a friend!

## Camel

Some camels have one hump.
Some have two. All camels have two rows of eyelashes.

How do humps and thick eyelashes help?

A camel's hump has fat inside. On long trips, a camel's body uses the fat for food. A camel's eyelashes keep out the desert sand.

This baby camel will follow his mother when the herd goes from place to place.

## Duck

A duck is a bird. It has two feet, and each foot has three toes. A duck has a beak, too.

How do feet and a beak help?


Ducks use their feet to swim in the water or walk on land. They use their beaks to eat plants and bugs.

Look! This duck uses her beak to clean her friend.



A giraffe's spots help it hide. A giraffe's long neck helps it reach the leaves of trees.

This giraffe's long neck helps her reach her baby. She gives him a big kiss!

## Porcupine

A porcupine has soft quills when it is born. The quills get sharp in a day or two.

How do quills help?


## Turtle

## A turtle has a shell that is very hard.

How does a hard shell help?

A turtle can hide inside its shell from an animal that may hurt it.
The turtle waits until the animal goes away. Then the turtle comes back out.

You're safe now, turtle!



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Digltal Resources at PearsonReallze．com


[^0]:    ense $H$ dive students write an equation to show 15 as 10 ones them tell how the picture and equation show 10 ones and some more ones.

