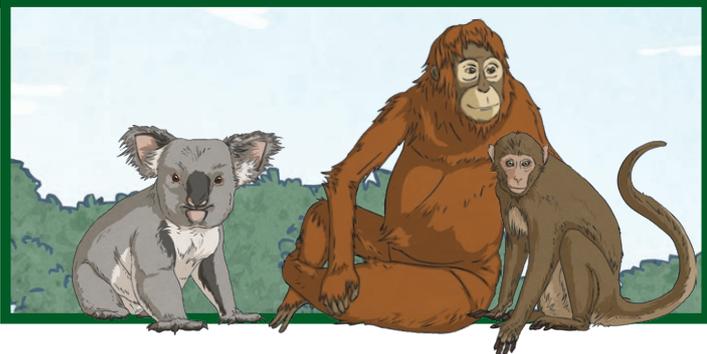


# Strange but True: Animals



There are many odd and interesting animals on planet Earth. Read on to find out some strange facts about them.

## Animal Criminals?



Police officers in London took the fingerprints of chimpanzees and orangutans in 1975 and they looked at them closely. They spotted that the

fingerprints of chimpanzees and orangutans were very similar to human fingerprints!

Chimpanzees, orangutans and even koalas all have the same patterns in their fingerprints as humans. Police in Australia looked at the fingerprints of koalas using a microscope. They could not tell the difference between fingerprints left by humans and those made by koalas!

## True or False? Elephants are the only animal that can't jump.

This is false. There are lots of animals that cannot jump, such as sloths, hippos and rhinos.



## True or False? Bulls charge when they see the colour red.

This is false. Bulls do not hate the colour red. They cannot see the colour red because cattle are colour-blind. Bulls only charge at something when it is moving around. It does not matter what colour that thing is.



### Slippery Suspects



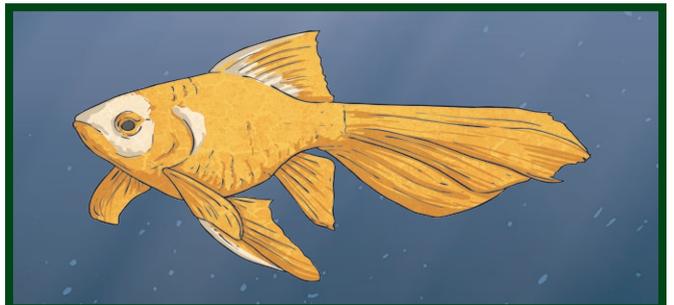
Did you know that snails have thousands of teeth? Snails eat leaves and shrubs using rows of tiny teeth that are on their tongue. A garden snail can have up to 14,000 teeth! A snail's toothy tongue is called a radula.

Another way that snails explore the world is by using their tentacles! Most snails have four tentacles. They use their two upper tentacles to see with and they use their two lower tentacles for smelling with.

An odd fact is that a snail can move all four of its tentacles in different ways at the same time. This means that it can be looking at you while it is smelling your friend!

**True or False?** Goldfish can only remember things for three seconds.

This is false. Tests have shown that goldfish can remember things for far longer than you might think. This could even be for at least six months!



**True or False?** Frogs can't vomit.

This is true. If a frog needs to get something out of its stomach, it must push its stomach out of its mouth! Then, the food will either fall out or can be wiped out by the frog using its feet.



# Questions

1. Which of these is **not** true? Tick one.

- Elephants can't jump.
- Bulls do not hate the colour red.
- Goldfish can only remember things for three seconds.
- Frogs can't vomit.

2. Which animals have similar fingerprints to humans? Tick **three**.

- orangutans
- chimpanzees
- sloths
- koalas

3. How many tentacles do most snails have? Tick one.

- zero
- two
- four
- six

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Snails have...	are on its tongue.
A snail's teeth...	is called a radula.
A snail's tongue...	thousands of teeth.
Snails smell using...	their lower tentacles.

5. Find and copy one word from the first paragraph that means the same as 'weird'.

---

6. Fill in the missing words.

Tests have shown that \_\_\_\_\_ can remember things for  
far \_\_\_\_\_ than you might think.

7. Explain what police officers might have been thinking after they had made their discovery in 1975.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. Which of these is **not** true? Tick one.

- Elephants can't jump.
- Bulls do not hate the colour red.
- Goldfish can only remember things for three seconds.**
- Frogs can't vomit.

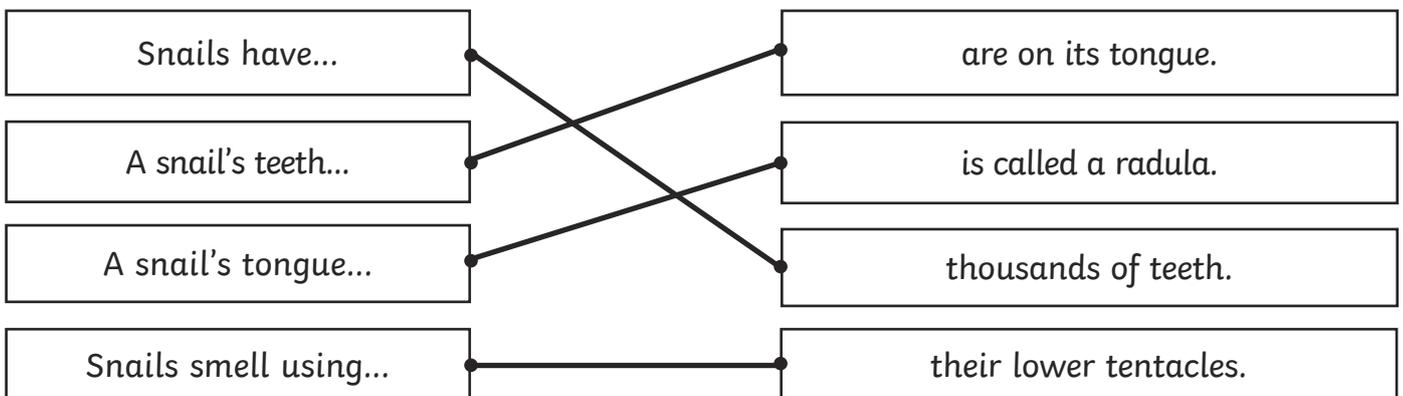
2. Which animals have similar fingerprints to humans? Tick **three**.

- orangutans**
- chimpanzees**
- sloths
- koalas**

3. How many tentacles do most snails have? Tick one.

- zero
- two
- four**
- six

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



5. Find and copy one word from the first paragraph that means the same as 'weird'.

**Accept either of the following: odd; strange.**

6. Fill in the missing words.

Tests have shown that **goldfish** can remember things for  
far **longer** than you might think.

7. Explain what police officers might have been thinking after they had made their discovery in 1975.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the police officers might have been wondering if cheeky chimpanzees could have been responsible for crimes!**

# Strange but True: Animals



There are many weird and wonderful creatures on planet Earth. Read on to find out some unusual and interesting facts about members of the animal kingdom.

## Animal Criminals?



In 1975, police officers in London began to collect fingerprints from chimpanzees and orangutans at a local zoo. When they looked at them closely, it became clear that these members of the animal kingdom are the same as humans in one special way. Police officers were surprised to see that

the fingerprints of the chimpanzees and orangutans were very similar to human fingerprints!

Chimpanzees, orangutans and even koalas all have ridged patterns of loops, whorls and arches in their fingerprints. These are the same as those found in human fingerprints. When studied under a microscope, investigators in Australia could not tell the difference between the prints left by humans and those made by koalas!

## Fact or Fiction? Elephants are the only animal that can't jump.

This is a myth. In fact, there are many animals that cannot jump, such as sloths, hippos and rhinos.



## Fact or Fiction? Bulls charge when they see the colour red.

This is a myth. Bulls do not hate the colour red. In fact, they cannot see the colour red because cattle are colour-blind. Bulls only become interested in items and charge at them when the items are moving around. It does not matter what colour those items are.



### Slippery Suspects



Did you know that snails have thousands of teeth? Snails munch on leaves and shrubs using rows of microscopic teeth that are on their tongue. This toothy tongue is called a radula. In fact, a single garden snail can have up to 14,000 teeth!

Another way that snails experience the world around them is by using four tentacles! Most snails have two upper and two lower tentacles. They use their two upper tentacles to see with and their two lower tentacles for smelling their environment. Impressively, a snail can move all four of its tentacles separately. This means that it can be looking at you while it is smelling your friend!

**Fact or Fiction?** Goldfish can only remember things for three seconds.

This is a myth. Studies have shown that your goldfish can remember things for far longer than you might think. This could even be for at least six months! Scientists believe that goldfish are more intelligent than many people think.



**Fact or Fiction?** Frogs can't vomit.

This is true. If a frog needs to remove something from its stomach, it pushes its stomach out of its mouth. Then, the food either falls out or is wiped out by the frog using its feet!

# Questions

1. **This is a myth.**

How else could the author have written this sentence? Tick one.

- This is true.
- This is false.
- We are unsure.
- I do not know.

2. How many lower tentacles do most snails have? Tick one.

- one
- two
- three
- four

3. Number the animals from 1-5 to show the order in which they first appear in the text.

The first one has been done for you.

- elephants
- goldfish
- 1 chimpanzees
- snails
- frogs

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

In 1975, police officers...	similar to human fingerprints.
The fingerprints of chimpanzees were...	have ridged patterns in their fingerprints.
Chimpanzees, orangutans and koalas...	began to collect fingerprints.
When studied under a microscope,...	Australian detectives could not tell human and koala prints apart.

5. Look at the section called **Slippery Suspects**.

Find and copy one word which means 'very small'.

6. Look at the section called **Animal Criminals?**

Find and copy a phrase from this section that shows that the police officers did not expect to make such a discovery.

---

7. Summarise what you have learnt about bulls using 15 words or fewer.

---

---

---

8. Which fact were you most surprised to learn? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. **This is a myth.**

How else could the author have written this sentence? Tick one.

- This is true.
- This is false.**
- We are unsure.
- I do not know.

2. How many lower tentacles do most snails have? Tick one.

- one
- two**
- three
- four

3. Number the animals from 1-5 to show the order in which they first appear in the text.

The first one has been done for you.

- 2** elephants
- 4** goldfish
- 1** chimpanzees
- 3** snails
- 5** frogs

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

In 1975, police officers...	similar to human fingerprints.
The fingerprints of chimpanzees were...	have ridged patterns in their fingerprints.
Chimpanzees, orangutans and koalas...	began to collect fingerprints.
When studied under a microscope,...	Australian detectives could not tell human and koala prints apart.

5. Look at the section called **Slippery Suspects**.

Find and copy one word which means 'very small'.

**microscopic**

6. Look at the section called **Animal Criminals?**

Find and copy a phrase from this section that shows that the police officers did not expect to make such a discovery.

**(Police officers) were surprised (to see...)**

7. Summarise what you have learnt about bulls using 15 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Bulls are colour-blind and they charge towards items when they are moving.**

8. Which fact were you most surprised to learn? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I was most surprised to learn that goldfish have a good memory because I have a pet goldfish and I did not know that it was so clever.**

# Strange but True: Animals



There are many weird, wonderful and unique creatures on planet Earth but some are slightly stranger than others! Read on to find out some unusual and fascinating facts about members of the animal kingdom.

## Animal Criminals?



In 1975, police in London were baffled by a series of unsolved crimes. Hoping to crack the cases once and for all, police officers made an unusual move... they began to collect fingerprints from chimpanzees and orangutans at a local zoo!

Upon examination, it became clear that these members of the animal kingdom have something special in common with humans. Police officers were fascinated to find that the fingerprints of some primates

are remarkably similar to those left behind by humans at crime scenes!

Chimpanzees, orangutans and even koalas all share the same ridged patterns of loops, whorls and arches that can be found in human fingerprints. In some cases, the marks left behind by koalas have perplexed detectives. When studied under a microscope, investigators could not tell the difference between the prints left by humans and those made by these marsupial masterminds.

But, just in case you were wondering, no chimpanzee, orangutan or koala has ever been found to have committed a crime and no arrests were made at the zoo that day. Phew!

## Fact or Fiction? Elephants are the only animal that can't jump.

This is a myth. In fact, there are many animals that cannot jump, such as sloths, hippos and rhinos.



### Slippery Suspects



When you spot a snail on the footpath, you'd be forgiven for not taking a second glance. After all, snails are dull, brown creatures that move at a painfully slow pace... right?

Wrong. Did you know that snails have thousands of teeth? Snails chow down on leaves and shrubs using rows of thousands of microscopic teeth on their tongue. This toothy tongue is called a radula. In fact, a single garden snail can boast anywhere between 1,000 and 14,000 teeth between its jaws!

Another fascinating way that most snails experience the world around them is by using four **retractable** tentacles. At the top of a snail's upper two tentacles, you will see black dots which are the snail's eyes. A snail uses its lower two tentacles for smelling its environment. Impressively, a snail can move all four of its tentacles separately. This means that it can be looking at you while it is smelling your friend! Maybe, you will take a closer look next time you see a snail sauntering past you in the garden.

**Fact or Fiction?** Goldfish can only remember things for three seconds.

This is a myth. Recent studies have shown that your goldfish can remember things for far longer than you might expect. This could even be for at least six months! Scientists believe that goldfish are more intelligent than they are given credit for.



**Fact or Fiction?** Frogs can't vomit.

This is true. If a frog needs to remove something from its stomach, it pushes its stomach out of its mouth and wipes it with its feet!

### Glossary

**retractable:** Something that can be drawn back inside the main body of the animal or object.

# Questions

1. **In 1975, police in London were baffled by a series of unsolved crimes.**

In this sentence, how do the police officers feel? Tick one.

- delighted  
 exhausted  
 confused  
 anxious

2. **...the prints left by humans and those made by marsupial masterminds.**

If the word 'marsupial' means 'a mammal with a pouch', what does the phrase 'marsupial masterminds' mean? Tick one.

- mammals that do not have a pouch  
 lots of animals with two pouches  
 intelligent mammals with pouches  
 someone who is in charge of mammals with pouches

3. Fill in the missing words.

Chimpanzees, orangutans and even koalas all share the same ridged patterns of \_\_\_\_\_, whorls and \_\_\_\_\_ that can be found in human fingerprints.

4. What does the word 'retractable' mean?

---

5. What piece of equipment did investigators use to examine koalas' fingerprints?

---

6. Comment on how the author tries to engage with the reader. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

---

---

---

7. Explain why you think this text was written.

---

---

---

8. Use the text to summarise what happened in 1975 using 20 words or fewer.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. **In 1975, police in London were baffled by a series of unsolved crimes.**

In this sentence, how do the police officers feel? Tick one.

- delighted  
 exhausted  
 **confused**  
 anxious

2. **...the prints left by humans and those made by marsupial masterminds.**

If the word 'marsupial' means 'a mammal with a pouch', what does the phrase 'marsupial masterminds' mean? Tick one.

- mammals that do not have a pouch  
 lots of animals with two pouches  
 **intelligent mammals with pouches**  
 someone who is in charge of mammals with pouches

3. Fill in the missing words.

Chimpanzees, orangutans and even koalas all share the same ridged patterns of **loops**, whorls and **arches** that can be found in human fingerprints.

4. What does the word 'retractable' mean?

**Retractable means something that can be drawn back inside the main body of the animal or object.**

5. What piece of equipment did investigators use to examine koalas' fingerprints?

**Investigators used a microscope to study koalas' fingerprints.**

6. Comment on how the author tries to engage with the reader. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The author tries to engage with the reader by being humorous. An example of that is 'Phew!' The author also asks the reader questions, such as 'After all, snails are dull, brown creatures that move at a painfully slow pace... right?'**

7. Explain why you think this text was written.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this text was written to teach children facts that they might not know about animals that they might not see in more serious non-fiction books.**

8. Use the text to summarise what happened in 1975 using 20 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Police officers in London fingerprinted chimpanzees and orangutans and they found that they had similar fingerprints to humans.**