



Teacher Edition

AlphaWorld

# Animal Champions

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## How to use this book

The AlphaWorld teacher editions support teachers as they guide children's reading and thinking during one or more guided reading sessions. Teachers can observe children as they read and choose from the given suggestions to suit individual needs.

### Before reading

#### Setting the context, front cover and title page:

The suggestions help teachers to set the scene and prepare children for reading the book. Prompts help to determine children's prior knowledge. Where necessary, background information is provided. Teachers are encouraged to check that children understand the vocabulary listed and to discuss the meanings and/or the structures of these words. Previous experiences with similar text types may also be discussed.

### During reading

#### Predict, Read, Reflect:

Questions encourage children to engage with the text by making predictions. The children then read a section of the text and reflect on what they have read. The focus is on the content, language and text features of the book.

#### Observe and support:

Prompts help teachers to focus on the strategies children use as they read. Teachers can then select from and adapt the suggestions according to the needs of the individual child. The suggestions aim to develop a child's reading abilities. Interruptions to the child's reading should be minimal.

### After reading

#### A selection of reading and writing activities:

The last pages of the teacher edition provide follow-up activities and include the assessment focus.

## Selected text features

- Fact file boxes contain information about Olympic champions
- Summary chart
- Glossary

## Vocabulary

cat flea, champions, cheetah, hurdler, impala, kilometres, metres, mountain lion, Olympic, pronghorn antelope, rhinoceros beetle, rocket frog, sailfish, sperm whale, spine

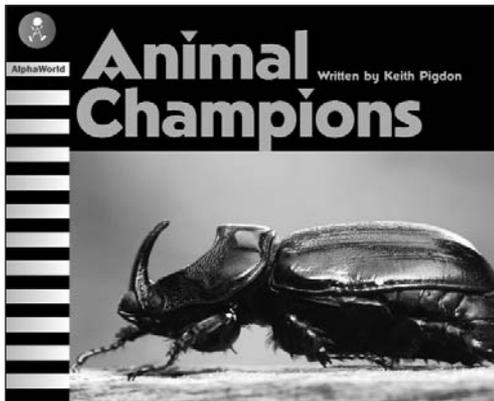
## Setting the context

Discuss the Olympic games with the children. List some of the different events that take place at the Olympic games.

Ask the children if they know any animals that can run fast, jump high or lift heavy weights. *Do you know which animal can run the fastest?*

## Background information

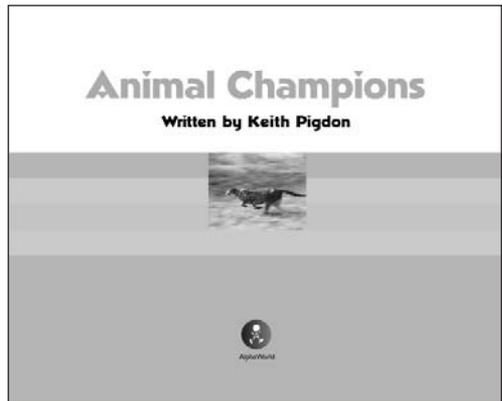
This book compares the performances of humans in selected sporting events with the outstanding feats of selected animal species. The features that help each species to perform amazing feats are described in the text.



## Front cover

Show the front cover.

*This book is called Animal Champions. Discuss what 'champion' means and think of ways that animals could become champions. What do you think is special about this beetle?*



## Title page

Turn to the title page.

Point out the name of the author.

*Why would a cheetah be on the title page?  
How could it be a champion?*

## **Predict**

*This is the contents page. Let's read through it together to find out what this book is about.*

Discuss how most of the headings are sporting events that take place at the Olympic games.

Turn to page 4.

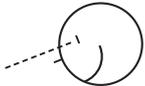
*This is the introduction. It will tell us what Animal Champions is about. It says that a champion is someone that can do something better than anyone else. All sports have people who are champions. How could animals be champions?*

## **Read** to the end of page 5.

## **Reflect**

*Why do you think the publisher has selected these photos for the contents page? What do they tell us?*

*Do you think human champions will be as good as the best animal champions? Why?*



## **Observe and support**

Does the child use an understanding of letter/sound relationships to check words?

*You read 'A champion is a person...' How did you know that word was 'champion'? What did you look at? What did you think about?*

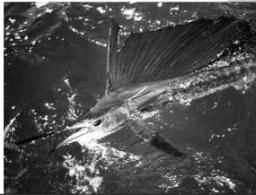
	<b>Contents</b>
	
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## Introduction

A champion is a person who can do something better than anyone else. In all sports, there are people who are champions.

But there are also animals that can swim, run, jump, lift heavy weights and dive.

Are our human champions as good as these animal champions?



## **Predict**

*Sprinting is running very fast over a short distance. Do you like to sprint? The cheetah is the sprinting champion of the animal world. Why do you think it can run so fast?*

*Turn to page 8.*

*The pronghorn antelope is the animal champion for running fast over a long distance. It can run at around 60 kilometres per hour over 5000 metres. Why do you think it can run like this?*

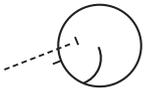
## **Read** to the end of page 9.

## **Reflect**

*Why can the cheetah sprint so fast? How fast can it run?*

*Does it sprint faster than the Olympic champion?*

*How far is 5000 metres? Why can the pronghorn antelope run this fast? Who is faster, the Olympic champion or the pronghorn antelope?*



## **Observe and support**

Ask one child to read aloud to you while the other children are reading silently.

Can the child read the text fluently?

Model reading a passage of the text to the child.

Have the child read it with you.

*Can you make it sound like I do?*

Have the child read alone.

## Sprinting

Running very fast over a short distance is called sprinting.

The cheetah is the sprinting champion of the animal world. It can run at 100 kilometres per hour over 400 metres.

Cheetahs have a light body and long legs. They have large nostrils to take in lots of air. Their eyes are on the top of their head so they can see their prey as they run fast. Cheetahs also bend their spine so that they can take very long strides when they run.

They live on the plains of Africa.



### Olympic champions

The Olympic sprint champion runs 400 metres at around 33 kilometres per hour.

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## Running

The pronghorn antelope is the champion runner of the animal world. It can run at around 60 kilometres per hour over 5000 metres.

Pronghorn antelopes have long legs, a large heart and big lungs that take in lots of air.

They live in the deserts of North America.



### Olympic champions

An Olympic champion runs 5000 metres at around 23 kilometres per hour.

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## **Predict**

*An Olympic long jump champion can jump four to five times their body length. The rocket frog is the champion jumper of the animal world. How far do you think the rocket frog can jump?*

Turn to page 12.

*A mountain lion can jump five times its own height. Look at the photos of the mountain lion. Why do you think it can jump this high? The mountain lion can jump high, but the cat flea is the animal high jump champion. How high can it jump?*

## **Read** to the end of page 13.

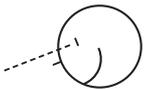
## **Reflect**

*Why do you think this frog is called a 'rocket frog'?*

*How high can a cat flea jump?*

*How did the Olympic champions compare to the animal champions?*

*How long can you jump? How high can you jump?*



## **Observe and support**

Can the child compare the human and animal champions?

*What can jump the highest? Why do you think so? How high can it jump?*

Provide some blocks to use as measuring tools.

*Can you show me what you mean?*

## Long jump

The rocket frog is the champion long jumper of the animal world.

It can jump more than 80 times its body length.

Rocket frogs have long slender legs and very large feet.

They are found in Central America and in Australia.



## Olympic champions

Olympic long jump champions can jump four to five times their own body length.

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## High jump

The mountain lion can jump about five times its own height.

Mountain lions have slim bodies and long powerful legs that help them to leap between rocks.

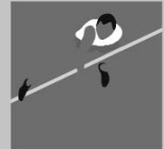
Mountain lions are found in North and Central America.



The cat flea is the champion high jumper of the animal world.

The cat flea can leap more than 200 times its own height.

Cat fleas are found all around the world.



## Olympic champions

Olympic high jump champions can jump about two and a half metres or 1.2 times their own height.

12

13

● **Predict**

*Running and jumping over barriers is called hurdling. Impala leap into the air as they run. Do you think the impala will be faster than the Olympic champion?*

*Turn to page 16.*

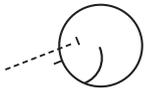
*The Olympic weightlifting champions can lift around three times their own body weight. How much weight do you think this rhinoceros beetle can lift?*

● **Read** to the end of page 17.

● **Reflect**

*Why do you think the impala can jump so high? What is the difference between the impala and the Olympic champion?*

*Why is this beetle called the ‘rhinoceros beetle’? Is it the strongest animal in the world? Why do you think so?*



**Observe and support**

Can the child use the information in the text to interpret the photographs?

*Where is the beetle’s horn? Can you show me where the book tells you this?*

## Hurdles

Running and jumping over barriers is called hurdling.

The impala is the hurdles champion of the animal world.

An impala can sprint at 80 kilometres per hour over 400 metres.

Impala leap in the air as they run. They can leap more than three metres high and cross more than 10 metres.

Impala have light bodies and long legs.

They live on the plains of Africa.



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## Olympic champions

The Olympic hurdles champion for the 400 metres event jumps over the hurdles at around 31 kilometres per hour.

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## Weightlifting

The rhinoceros beetle is the champion weightlifter of the animal world.

It weighs only two grams, but it can carry 100 times its own body weight.

Male rhinoceros beetles have a large horn like a rhinoceros.

Rhinoceros beetles are found in most warm rainforests.



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## Olympic champions

Olympic weightlifting champions can lift around three times their own body weight.

17

## **Predict**

*The sperm whale is the champion animal diver. Sperm whales can hold their breath for more than one hour. How long can you hold your breath?*

*Are Olympic champion divers judged for holding their breath? How are they judged?*

Turn to page 20.

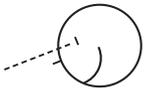
*The Olympic swimming champion can swim at about eight kilometres per hour over 100 metres. The animal swimming champion is the sailfish. Look at the photo. Why do you think sailfish can swim so fast?*

## **Read** to the end of page 21.

## **Reflect**

*Why is the sperm whale the champion animal diver?*

*Why can sailfish swim so fast? Where are sailfish found?*



## **Observe and support**

Does the child check a range of information on the page to assist with problem solving?

*I noticed that you looked at the picture as you were working that out? What did you notice that helped you to work out that sentence?*

## Diving

The sperm whale is the champion diver of the animal world.

It dives the deepest of any animal.

Sperm whales dive 2500 metres to find the giant squid that is their favourite food. Sperm whales can hold their breath for more than one hour.

They live in the ocean.



## Olympic champions

Olympic diving champions are judged on how they look when they dive and how difficult their dives are.

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## Swimming

The sailfish is the champion swimmer of the animal world.

It can swim at 109 kilometres per hour.

Sailfish have a large back fin to help them swim fast.

They have a slim body with strong muscles that power their tails.

Sailfish are found in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.



## Olympic champions

The Olympic swimming champion swims 100 metres at about eight kilometres per hour.

20

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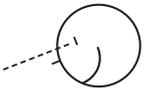
● **Predict**

*This is the summary chart. It compares the achievements of animal champions to Olympic champions in each sport. Demonstrate how to use the summary chart to find and compare information.*

● **Read** to the end of page 23.

● **Reflect**

*Why has the summary chart been included?*



**Observe and support**

Can the child share information from the summary chart?

*Which section did you enjoy the most? Why? Can you find it on the summary chart?*

*What does the chart tell you?*

## Summary chart



### Sprinting

Cheetah 100 kilometres per hour over 400 metres  
Olympic champion 33 kilometres per hour over 400 metres



### Hurdles

Impala 80 kilometres per hour over 400 metres  
Olympic champion 31 kilometres per hour over 400 metres



### Running

Pronghorn antelope 60 kilometres per hour over 5000 metres  
Olympic champion 23 kilometres per hour over 5000 metres



### Weightlifting

Rhinoceros beetle 100 times its body weight  
Olympic champions three times their body weight



### Long jump

Rocket frog 80 times its body length  
Olympic champions four to five times their body length



### Diving

Sperm whale 2500 metres  
Olympic champions divers are measured on presentation



### High jump

Cat flea 200 times its own height  
Olympic champions 1.2 times their own height



### Swimming

Sailfish 109 kilometres per hour  
Olympic champion eight kilometres per hour

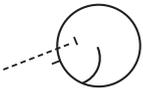
● **Predict**

*What does a glossary tell us? Let's read through it together to find out.*

● **Read** to the end of page 24.

● **Reflect**

*When would you use a glossary?  
Where is the definition of 'diving'? What does it say? Can you tell me in your own words what that means?*



**Observe and support**

Can the child explain the information presented in the glossary?

*What words have been included in the glossary? Why would they have been selected? How are the words in the glossary organised?*

## Glossary

**champion** the winner of a competition

**diving** going head-first into water

**high jump** a jump that is measured by height

**hurdles** a short run in which people jump over barriers

**kilometre** 1000 metres

**long jump** a jump that is measured by length

**sprinting** running a short distance at full speed

**swimming** moving through water

**weightlifting** lifting heavy weights

## After reading

### Being a meaning maker

Encourage the children to support their answers with evidence from the book as they discuss these questions:

*Why can cheetahs sprint so fast?*

*How much can the Olympic weightlifting champion lift?*

*How much can the rhinoceros beetle lift?*

*What does champion mean?*

*How do you become a champion?*

### Being a code breaker

Explore the following language features:

- Words with the suffix 'est':  
deepest, fastest, highest
- Compound words: kilometres, sailfish, weightlifting
- Adjectives: large, light, slim, strong

### Being a text user

Turn to the summary chart.

*What does this summary chart tell us?*

*How is it organised?*

*Where do I read to find out about swimming?*

*Why does this book have a summary chart?*

### Being a text critic

*What does this author think children are interested in reading about? Do you agree with him?*

*What other things would you have liked him to include in the book?*

## Responding to text

 The children could make models of some of the facts in the book to visually illustrate the difference between the human and animal results. They could be displayed with 'Did you know?' statements.

 The children could create an 'Animal Champion' poster. They could draw or cut out a range of animal champions to paste on the poster. Encourage the children to add labels and captions explaining the characteristics of each animal.

 The children could investigate the suffix 'est'. Discuss the notion of comparing two or more things. Have children run a race. Discuss how Molly can run fast, Kye can run faster, but Jesse can run the fastest. Photocopy a page of the text for each child. Have the children highlight the describing words in the text. Ask the children to tell you other words that could be used to describe the animals in the book.

## Writing links

The teacher could model the writing of a map key to locate and identify where the animal champions live.

The children could complete an entry in their learning journal about one thing they discovered while reading *Animal Champions*.

## Possible assessment focus

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Can the children:

- compare animal and human champions in one of the categories?
- point out descriptive language in the text?
- use the glossary?



whole text activity



sentence activity



word activity

# Animal Champions

**Topic:** Animal Kingdom/Sport

**Curriculum link:** Natural Science

**Text type:** Report – compare/contrast

**Reading level:** 22

**Word count:** 504

**Vocabulary:** cat flea, champions, cheetah, hurdler, impala, kilometres, metres, mountain lion, Olympic, pronghorn antelope, rhinoceros beetle, rocket frog, sailfish, sperm whale, spine

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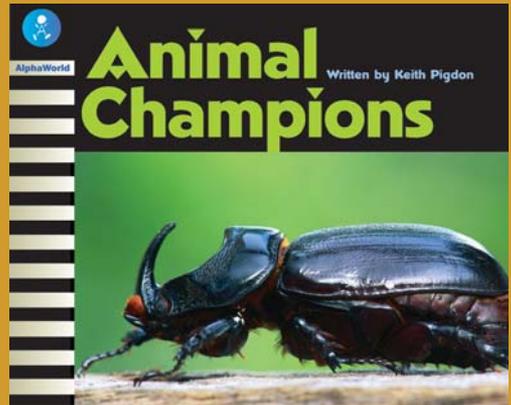
## Possible literacy focus:

- Making comparisons between animal and human champions.
- Using descriptive language.
- Using a glossary.

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## ESL possibilities:

- Using questions to guide reading of the text:  
What are the physical features that make this animal a champion? What can it do?
- Describing the Olympic events featured in the fact file boxes.



## Summary

This book compares animal and human champions. Is the best runner, the best jumper and the best swimmer in the world an Olympic champion or an animal?

**AlphaWorld**



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