

Teacher Edition

Seahorses

Written by Hannah Reed



alphakids



Horwitz Education
A Division of Horwitz
Publications Pty Ltd
55 Chandos Street
St Leonards NSW 2065
Australia

Horwitz Gardner
Education
Unit 53, Cressex
Enterprise Park
Lincoln Road
High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP12 3RL,
United Kingdom

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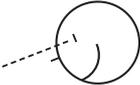
How to use this book

Before reading: Talkthrough



Talk through the book with the children. Encourage them to predict the text from the cover and the pictures, and to think about the information they provide. Direct the children's attention to aspects of the text that may challenge them. Support the children to deal with these challenges by asking the Talkthrough questions on each page.

During reading: Observe and support



Observe the children as they read. Encourage them to monitor their own reading as they comprehend the text. As needed, support children by assisting them to discover and use reading strategies and cues to solve problems and respond to reading challenges that arise in the text. Interruptions to the child's reading should be minimal and focused on a specified learning need.

After reading: Comprehension, returning to the text, responding and writing links



To further develop children's understanding of the text, select from activities found on page 12 and the inside back cover. These whole text, sentence and word level activities reinforce the teaching focus of this book. Assessment ideas are provided to assist with planning for further teaching.

Text highlights

- Question and answer book about seahorses
- Labelled diagrams supply information about the seahorse's anatomy

Vocabulary

- shallow, seagrass, coral, mangroves, brine
- shrimp, pouch, endangered

Setting the context

Ask: *What do you know about seahorses?*

Write the children's ideas on a chart. If children disagree about the information record it anyway and mark it with an asterisk.

What do you want to know about seahorses?

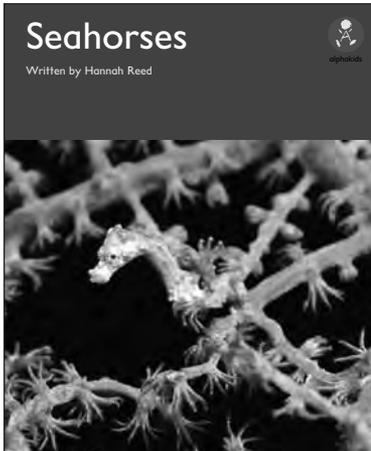
List these questions on the chart also.

Background information

Seahorses are fish that live in seaweed patches close to the coast. They are remarkable because the female seahorse deposits eggs into the male seahorse's pouch. He carries the eggs until they hatch.

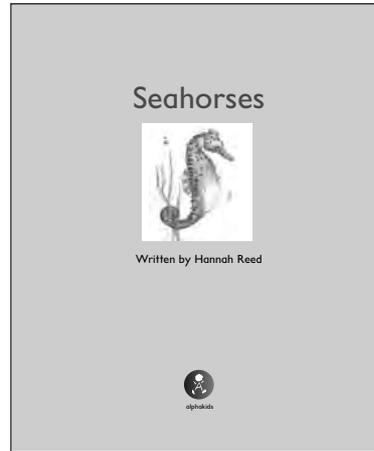
Introducing the book

This book is called 'Seahorses'. It is a question and answer book that tells us where seahorses live, what they eat, how they are born, how they stay safe and how they move. It also tells us why seahorses are endangered.



Front cover

*What do you notice about this seahorse?
What colour is it? Where is it swimming?
What kind of animal do you think it is?*



Title page

*What kind of picture is this? What does it tell us about seahorses?
Point out the tail holding onto the seaweed.
Why might a seahorse hold onto the seaweed?*



Talkthrough

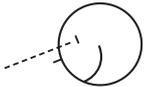
Discuss the contents page.

How is a contents page organised? What is it for? What will we find on page 10?

Read through the headings. Point out that each heading is a question.

What does this tell us about how the book will be written?

Point out that a contents page helps you to choose where to start reading a book, and that you don't have to read from the front to the back.



Observe and support

Can the child explain the purpose of a table of contents?

What is this page called? What is it for? Can you tell me where I would find out about how a seahorse is born?



Contents

What are seahorses? 4

Where do seahorses live? 6

What do seahorses eat? 9

How are seahorses born? 10

How do seahorses move? 12

How do seahorses stay safe? 14

Are seahorses endangered? 16



Talkthrough

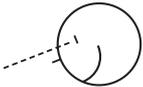
Point out the heading on page 4.

This page tells us that seahorses are not horses at all. What do you think they are?

Turn to pages 6–7.

Where do seahorses live?

Point out the words that may be unfamiliar to the children: seagrass, coral reefs, mangroves. Discuss the meaning of each as needed.



Observe and support

Can the child understand the literal meaning of the text?

How big can a seahorse grow?

Where do seahorses live?

What are seahorses?

Seahorses are not horses at all.
They are fish.

Seahorses can be as small
as a little finger nail
or they can grow as long as a hand.



Where do seahorses live?

Seahorses live in shallow water
in the sea.

Some seahorses live in seagrass.
Other seahorses live near coral reefs
or in mangroves.

Seahorses live in the same place all
of their lives.



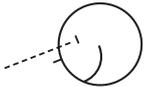


Talkthrough

What is this page about?

The book tells us that seahorses have no teeth. What do you think they have to do when they are eating small sea animals?

Point out the diagram and caption.



Observe and support

Does the child use a range of strategies to work out new vocabulary?

How did you work out the word 'swallow'?

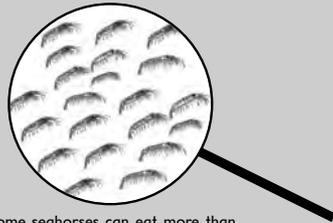


What do seahorses eat?

Seahorses eat small sea animals.

Seahorses have no teeth.

They have to swallow their food whole.



Some seahorses can eat more than
three thousand brine shrimp each day.

9



Talkthrough

Ask the children look at the illustration on page 11.

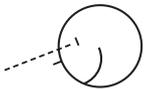
What can you see on the seahorse's stomach? What is coming out of this pouch?

The text tells us that seahorses have 1000 babies each year but only about two will grow up. What do you think happens to all of the other babies?

Look at the diagram on page 12.

Can you point to the seahorse's fins? What information did you use to work that out?

Point out the conventions used in diagrams: pointers, labels, caption.



Observe and support

Does the child use their knowledge of phonics to support their reading? Read the word 'hatch'. Does the child recognise that /tch/ represents a sound?

Can you show me the part of this word that makes the sound /ch/?

How are seahorses born?

The female seahorse lays her eggs into the male's pouch.

Three weeks later the eggs hatch. The baby seahorses swim out of the pouch.

A pair of seahorses has about 1000 babies each year. Only about two of the baby seahorses will grow up.

10

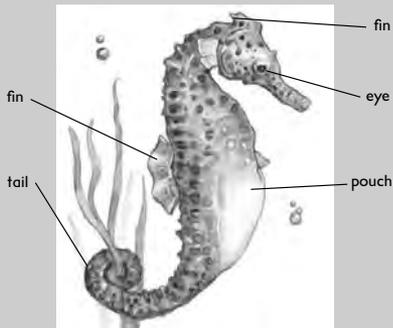


The male seahorse gives birth to the baby seahorses.

11

How do seahorses move?

Seahorses move by waving a fin on the back of their bodies and on their heads.



12

Seahorses can move each of their eyes separately.

Seahorses use their tails to hold on to seagrass. This stops the waves from washing the seahorses away.



13

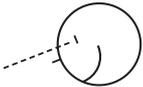


Talkthrough

Can you find the seahorse in this photograph? Why do you think it is hiding in the coral? The book tells us another way that seahorses hide. What do they do?

Turn to page 16. Discuss what the word ‘endangered’ means.

Can you name two reasons why seahorses are endangered?



Observe and support

Can the child read the text fluently?

Model reading a passage of the text to the child. Have the child read it with you.

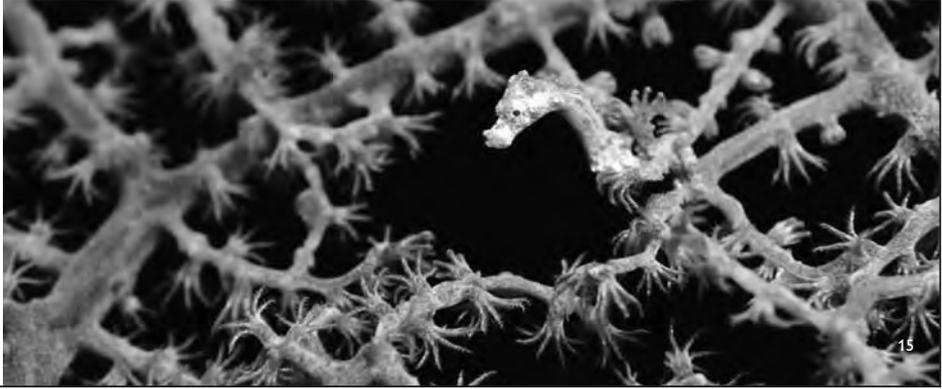
Can you make it sound like I do?

Have the child read the text by themselves.

How do seahorses stay safe?

Seahorses hide to stay safe.

Some seahorses can change colour to look like where they live. Other animals cannot see them.



Are seahorses endangered?

Seahorses are endangered.
Some people catch them.
And many of the places they live in are being polluted.



Being a meaning maker

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

What is a seahorse?

What do seahorses eat?

What would you need to provide if you were going to keep a seahorse in an aquarium?

Being a code breaker

Children may like to explore the following language features:

- Use of question marks.
- Words with the phoneme 'l': live, all, small, little, nail, shallow, animals, whole, lays, female, male's, later, only, will, hold, tails, colour, look, like, people, places, polluted. These words could be grouped according to the letters (l, ll, le) used to represent the sound.
- The rime 'ail': tail, nail.

Being a text user

Review the chart that was made prior to reading the book.

What did we learn by reading the book?

Compare the information in the book with the information recorded in the chart. Discuss any discrepancies.

Now look at the questions children raised prior to reading the book.

Did the book provide answers to all of these questions?

Which questions do we need to research further? How can we do this?

Being a text critic

What did the author need to know to write this book?

Where might the author have found the information she used?

What information has the author left out?

How would you write a book about seahorses?

Responding to text



Children could make a poster about why seahorses are endangered and what could be done to protect them. Children could give a verbal presentation about their posters.



Children could work in cooperative groups to make a collage of a seahorse's habitat. Supply large sheets of paper, coloured paper, cellophane, sand and glue. Encourage children to write captions and labels for their collage.



Children could list a range of words that describe seahorses.

Writing links

Shared writing

Discuss the structure of a question and answer book.

What does each heading start with?

What comes next?

List a range of questions about seahorses for which children could write answers. Point out the use of the question mark.

Write the answer for one question.

Independent writing

Children could write a question and answer book about an animal of their choice.

Assessment

Can the child:

- Read labelled diagrams?
- Use a range of information on the page to support comprehension?



whole text activity



sentence activity



word activity



Teacher Edition

Topic: Living things

Curriculum link: Science

Text type: Question and answer

Reading level: 14

Word count: 193

Vocabulary: shallow, seagrass, coral, mangroves, brine shrimp, pouch, endangered

Possible literacy focus

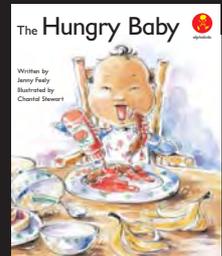
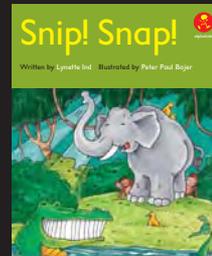
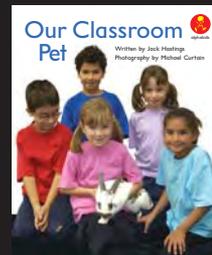
Reading labelled diagrams.

Using a range of visual information to enhance understanding.

Summary

This book explores what seahorses are, where they live, what they eat and how they reproduce.

Other books at this level



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