

Amazing Lifetimes

Topic: Animal Kingdom/Plants

Curriculum link: Natural Science

Text type: Explanation

Reading level: 21

Word count: 605

Vocabulary: backbones, bamboo, barramundi, California, cycad, kilograms, kilometres, larva, lifetimes, litres, metres, millimetres, mosquitoes, pupa, river mouths, salmon, semi-trailers, sequoia trees, tonnes, wet season

Possible literacy focus:

- Identifying comparative language.
- Using adjectives of comparison.

Follow-up activities

Identifying main ideas

Ask the children to re-read pages 12–13 of *Amazing Lifetimes*.

What were the main ideas on these pages?

What is amazing about mosquitos?

What do you now know about mosquitos that you didn't know before?

Now re-read other sections of the book, identify the main ideas and share them as a group.

Adjectives of comparison

Ask the children to look at page 9 of *Amazing Lifetimes*. Point out the first sentence of the text:

Bamboo is the **fastest**-growing plant.

What does this tell us about the bamboo?

This word is a word that compares things.

Can you find any other words like this?

Read them out to the group.

Suggest to the children that they can use these words in their own writing when they need to compare things.

Text layout

Ask the children to turn to pages 10–13.

What do you notice about the layout of the pages?

What is the same and what is different?

Why do you think the designer selected this type of layout?

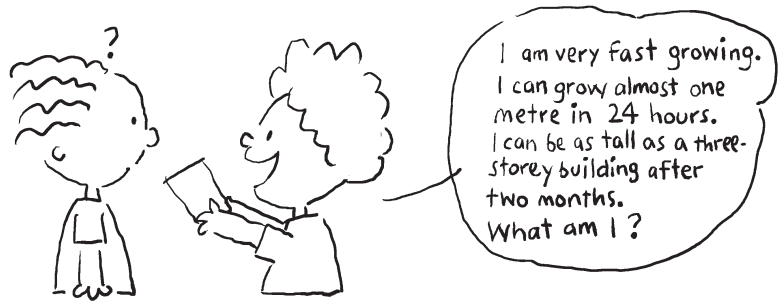
Now look at pages 18–19.

What do you notice about the layout of these pages?

If you were the designer of this book, what would you do?

Fact cards

You will need:
paper, pencil,
small cards



1. Pick one amazing lifetime from the book.
2. Write down some facts about it to use as clues.
3. Read the clues to your partner.
4. Give your partner one clue at a time. They may not need to hear all of the clues before they can guess!
5. Swap, so that you both have a turn.
6. Write more cards and keep swapping facts!

Design a board game

You will need:
cardboard, dice, small counters, ruler, felt pens, pencil,
coloured pencils, scissors

1. Design your own board game based on *Amazing Lifetimes*.
2. Include some of the different lifetimes featured in the book.
3. Play the game with some friends.

Mini book

Write about these amazing lifetimes and make a mini book.

Amazing Lifetimes

By _____

Growing fast

Growing slowly

Living for a short time

Living for a long time

Changing from male to female

Going home to breed

Instructions Remind children to write about amazing animals using their own words. Ask the children to cut out and number the pages. Staple the pages together to make a mini book.

Double letters

See how many words you can find with double letters in them.
List them here.

Double letters in the middle of the word	Double letters at the end of the word
different	pass
feel	

Now write some sentences using these words.
