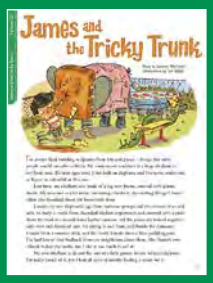
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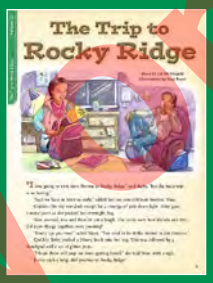
How Animals Protect Themselves
Information Report
(Informative)



James and the Tricky Trunk
Narrative
(Imaginative)



Making a Flipbook
Procedure
(Informative)



The Trip to Rocky Ridge
Narrative
(Imaginative)



Beavers
Description
(Informative)

Level 26 Cards



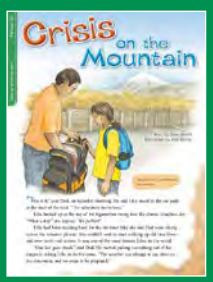
Indigenous Australian Art
Information Report
(Informative)



My Savings Plan
Procedural Recount
(Imaginative)



The Seaside Trio
Play
(Imaginative)



Crisis on the Mountain
Narrative
(Imaginative)



Robots
Information Report
(Informative)

For Review Only

HOW ANIMALS PROTECT THEMSELVES

Pamela Rushby

Nearly all animals are in danger of being hunted and eaten by other animals. Many animals have developed ways of protecting themselves from predators.

Some animals protect themselves by hiding:

- in tree hollows
- in burrows in the ground
- under rocks and logs.



The Spinifex Hopping Mouse hides in a burrow.

Some animals, such as deer and rabbits, run away – very fast! Some animals use behaviours to scare predators away. They enlarge themselves, or use the markings on their bodies to look like bigger animals.

Other animals mimic their surroundings and blend into the background, so predators will not see them.

Some animals have sharp spines or hard scales on their bodies. Predators find it difficult to attack these animals.

Several animals use smells and poison to protect themselves from predators.

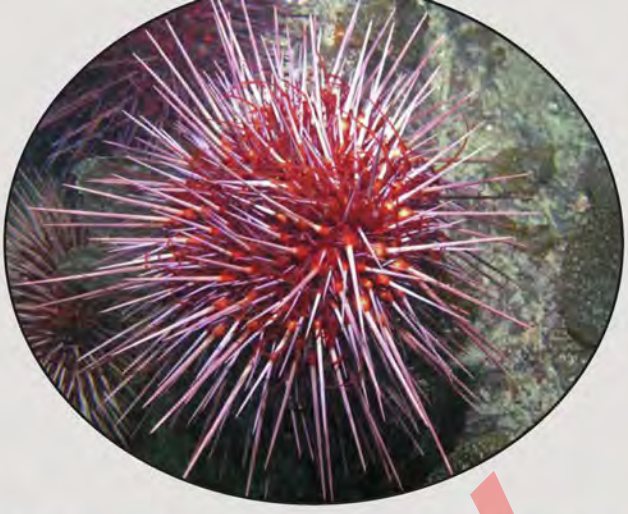


The chameleon protects itself by blending into its surroundings.

For Review Only

Spines, Scales and Shells

Sea urchins are found in seas around the world. They have very sharp spines all over their bodies. Their sharp spines protect them from sea otters, eels and other predators. Some sea urchins have spines that are 30 cm long.



Some sea urchins can inject poison with their spines.

Echidnas have sharp spines, too. Echidnas are mammals that live in Australia. They have spines on their backs. When an echidna is frightened, it defends itself by curling into a ball. Its head and legs are then protected by its hard, sharp spines.



Predators find it difficult to attack an echidna that has curled into a spiky ball.

Tree Pangolins live in central Africa. They also defend themselves by rolling into a ball. Tree Pangolins do not have spikes. Their backs are covered in very hard, overlapping scales. If a Tree Pangolin encounters a predator, such as a leopard, hyena or python, it curls up into a very tight, hard ball that is almost impossible to unroll.



Like an echidna, the Tree Pangolin curls into a ball to protect itself.

Snails and tortoises have hard shells. When snails and tortoises feel threatened, they protect themselves by pulling the soft parts of their bodies into their hard shells.



The snail pulls its body into its shell to protect itself from predators, such as birds.

For Review Only

Cunning Camouflage



The Sanddab is a species of flatfish that changes the colour of its skin to match its surroundings.

Flatfish, including Plaice, Halibut, Flounder, Sanddab and Sole, can change the colour of their skin. Flatfish live on seabeds in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. They can change colour very quickly to match their surroundings, such as sand, stones or seaweed. Scientists have even experimented by placing a flatfish on a chessboard. The flatfish developed a checked pattern to match the chessboard.

A Wobbegong is an Australian shark. Wobbegongs are similar to flatfish, as they also live on the seabed. Their bodies are the same colour as the weed they live in, so they are difficult to see. But the Wobbegong has another disguise. It has pieces of loose skin around its mouth that look like seaweed. This makes it even more difficult for predators to find it.



Predators are tricked into thinking that the pieces of skin around the Wobbegong's mouth are seaweed.

Arctic Foxes change colour, too. They live in Alaska and northern Canada. In summer, their fur is grey or brown. In winter, when snow falls, their fur becomes pure white. Predators, including polar bears and wolves, find the foxes very difficult to see.





The fur of the Arctic Fox changes colour depending on the season.

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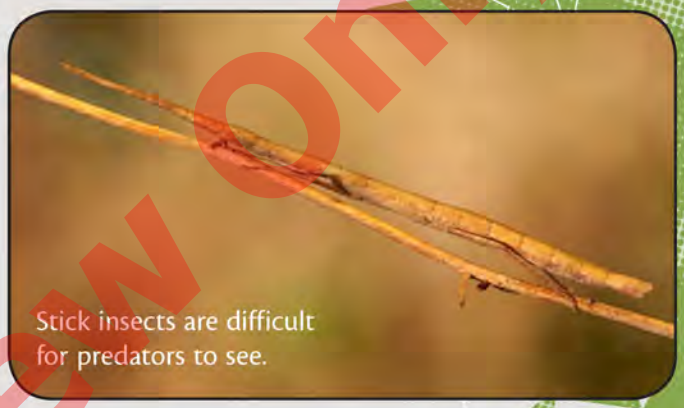
Mimics and Tricksters

Some creatures scare away potential predators by looking like something else. The Owl Butterfly is very small, between 65 and 200 mm. It frightens predators by looking like something much bigger. The patterns on its wings resemble the eyes of a large owl.



The patterns on an Owl Butterfly's wings resemble an owl's eyes.

Stick insects not only look like sticks, they also confuse predators by the way they move. They sway gently, just as the bush or tree they are sitting on sways in the wind, so predators find it very difficult to distinguish the insects from their background.



Stick insects are difficult for predators to see.

The Tawny Frogmouth can disguise itself to look like a tree. These Australian birds come out at night. In the daytime, they perch on branches. If they are threatened, they freeze into the shape of a broken branch.



The Tawny Frogmouth is a nocturnal bird that can freeze when a predator is near.

Some animals trick their predators. When a skink is caught by the tail, it can shed part of its tail. This part wriggles violently on the ground. The movement distracts the predator, and the skink can make its escape.



The skink will eventually grow a new tail.

For Review Only

Huddling in Herds

Grazing animals, including deer, bison, zebra and wildebeest, live in large groups, or herds. While they graze on open grassland, some herd members stay alert and on watch for predators, such as lions or wolves. If a predator is spotted, the animals warn each other and draw close together. Predators will not attack the whole group.



Zebras huddle in a group to protect themselves from lions.

Elephants live in smaller family groups of females, babies and young males. Predators will not usually attack a large elephant. However, a predator may attempt to attack an elephant calf or a weak or sick elephant. If this happens, the herd forms a circle with the threatened animal in the middle. The herd turns to face the predator and drives it away, protecting the animal inside the circle.

Poisons and Smells

Poison Dart Frogs live in tropical rainforests in South America. Their bright colours make them easy to see. However, these frogs have a powerful defence against possible predators.

The Poison Dart Frog has poison in its skin. Just a touch from a predator releases enough poison to make the predator very sick.



The Poison Dart Frog can injure, or even kill, many predators.

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Cane Toads also have poisonous skin. They were introduced to Australia in 1935. Now they have become pests. The Cane Toad has poison in the glands on its shoulders, and this is a defence against predators like birds and other animals.

The Bombardier Beetle not only has poison in its body – it sprays it out! The beetle uses a gland towards the back of its body to squirt out the poison with a loud pop. Both the noise and the squirt scare predators away.

Skunks also use spray as a defence – and their spray smells very unpleasant! A skunk can hit a predator with its spray from as far as 3 m away.



The skunk has an unpleasant-smelling spray to use as a defence against predators.

Animals protect themselves in many different ways. This means that their predators have to be very alert, too, if they are going to find food and survive.

For Review Only

Retell this Information Report

Read this information report again.
Record yourself as you retell the information report.
Listen to the recording.
Check! Did you remember most things in the information report?

Questions about *How Animals Protect Themselves*

1 Where do some animals hide to protect themselves?
2 Why does an echidna roll itself into a ball?
3 Why would the Tree Pangolin be difficult to unroll when it was in a tight, hard ball?
4 Why do flatfish lie on seabeds?
5 What was the purpose of the scientists' experiments with flatfish?
6 How does the Arctic Fox change the colour of its fur in winter?
7 What creature would prey on the Owl Butterfly?
8 Why does the Tawny Frogmouth bird freeze, rather than just sit on a branch, when it is threatened?
9 Why does the end part of a skink's tail continue to wriggle violently after it has broken off?
10 How do grazing animals protect themselves when they spot a predator?

Vocabulary

Replace the word 'potential' in this sentence:
Some creatures scare away potential predators by looking like something else.

PM

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My Savings Plan

By Elsie Nelley Illustrations by Giulia Rivolta



For Review Only

Recently, I saw some awesome sports videos that had been filmed with an action camera. Action cameras are small and light, so they are perfect for filming adventures. Some action cameras are waterproof, too.

I felt sure I would have great fun during the holidays if I was able to buy an action camera. My friends and I could film each other doing tricks at the BMX track and at the skatepark. When the weather gets warmer, we could attach the camera to one of our surfboards. Everyone will be really impressed when they see a video of us catching massive waves.

So, I told my parents that I wanted to buy something exciting with the money Poppa had given me for my birthday. When I suggested buying an action camera, they agreed it would be a good idea. However, there was one big problem: I didn't know if I could afford one.



That afternoon, Mum and I searched online to find the perfect camera. Unfortunately, I soon realised that action cameras are quite expensive. If I wanted to buy one by the end of this term, which was only three weeks away, I would have to save at least $90 to add to the money Poppa had given me. The only money I earned was $10 a week that Mum and Dad gave me for helping with small chores around the house. I knew that $30 was not going to be enough.

However, I was determined to work hard to achieve my goal, so I started a savings plan. First, I knew I would have to save all of my pocket money and earn some extra money as well.

Savings Plan

Goal: To save $90 in 3 weeks

Job	Income	Total Savings
Pocket-money chores	$10 x 3	$30

Then, I had to find some other jobs that would earn me some money, because I wanted to save another $60. I remembered the day Dad and I had ridden our bikes along the river path. I had seen a few golf balls lying in the grass as we rode past. There was a golf course close by. The area between the path and the course was bordered by trees and out of bounds for the golfers. I recalled my friend, Mason, telling me how he and his older brother earned money from selling the golf balls they had found.

When I told Mason why I wanted to earn some extra money, he said he would help. I hoped we'd find so many golf balls that I would have enough money to buy the camera.

For Review Only

It was late Saturday afternoon before our parents would allow us to look for balls in the area near the golf course. They made us wait until the people playing golf had all gone. Mum waited for us nearby, in the car. I took my backpack to carry the balls in. I wondered if just one backpack would be big enough to hold all the golf balls I was going to find.

Mason and I had to be careful as we walked in the rough area between the river path and the trees bordering the back of the golf course. It was a little slippery, because it had rained earlier in the day. I shuffled through the wet grass, hoping my feet would suddenly dislodge a ball. I pulled the long grass aside and poked around with a stick, too. My arms got scratched by twigs as I peered under bushes and lifted prickly branches. Big drops of water fell from the trees and dribbled down my neck.



For Review Only

I felt quite disappointed when I arrived back home. Collecting and selling golf balls was not going to earn me enough money to buy the camera. Mason and I had spent an hour searching for balls, and I had expected to have at least 100 to sell. But we had only found seven! Dad said he'd give me $5 for the lot, but I had to clean them first.

Job	Income	Total Savings
Pocket-money chores	$10 x 3	$30
Collected golf balls	$5	$35

At breakfast the next day, I asked my parents if I could wash their cars, to earn some more money. This was the first time I had volunteered to wash the cars by myself. I promised I would be careful and not scratch the paintwork. Unfortunately, Mum and Dad had taken both cars to the car wash the previous day.

I was disheartened, but cheered up when Mum and Dad said that I could wash both cars next weekend. We discussed how long it would take and what the job was worth. Eventually, we agreed that as long as I washed and dried both cars properly, I would earn $20.

That afternoon, Poppa visited our house. When he heard about my car-washing plan, he suggested I could practise on his car. I actually quite enjoyed washing Poppa's car. It was lucky I wore old clothes, because I dropped the hose a couple of times. It spun around, squirting me and the car, before I managed to pick it up again. When I had finished, I knew that I had done a good job and earned the $10 from Poppa.

Job	Income	Total Savings
Pocket-money chores	$10 x 3	$30
Collected golf balls	$5	$35
Washed Poppa's car	$10	$45



For Review Only

The following Saturday, Dad parked both our cars in the driveway. I worked steadily all morning, taking care to wash and dry the cars properly. I was just giving the lights on Mum's car a final polish when Mrs Chen called out to me. Mrs Chen lives next door. She had been taking Trixie, her little white poodle, for a walk. Mrs Chen thought we must have been going somewhere special. When I told her about my savings plan, she asked me if I would like to wash her car, too. So, after lunch, I went over to Mrs Chen's place and gladly washed her car.

Job	Income	Total Savings
Pocket-money chores	$10 x 3	$30
Collected golf balls	$5	$35
Washed Poppa's car	$10	$45
Washed Dad's car	$10	$55
Washed Mum's car	$10	$65
Washed Mrs Chen's car	$10	$75

When I looked at my savings plan again, I realised that I needed to earn some more money if I was going to achieve my goal of $90. And there was just one week before the holidays.

So, on the Sunday before the end of term, I went over to Mrs Chen's house. I still needed $15 to meet my savings goal. I asked her if she needed someone to give Trixie a bath. I hadn't washed a dog before, but I was sure it wouldn't be too difficult. Mrs Chen said she was really sorry, but Trixie had an appointment booked with a poodle groomer the next day, for a bath and a brush.

Mrs Chen kept on talking, and for a moment I was so disappointed, I didn't hear what she was saying. Then, I realised she was offering me a job cleaning her windows! She was looking for a strong, hard-working boy who didn't mind getting a bit wet. I grinned and nodded my head. That sounded just like me!



For Review Only

In no time at all, I had a long-handled broom and a bucket, filled with warm, soapy water. I dipped the broom into the bucket and scrubbed the windows around the outside of Mrs Chen's house. Then, I sprayed water all over the windows to get rid of the soapsuds. It was a sunny day and the windows glistened. Mrs Chen was so pleased, she gave me $10 for cleaning her windows and $5 for a bonus.

Wow, $15 from Mrs Chen! I couldn't believe my luck. I thanked her and rushed back home. I could finally buy that action camera. My friends and I were going to have so much fun making amazing videos during the holidays.

Job	Income	Total Savings
Pocket-money chores	$10 x 3	$30
Collected golf balls	$5	$35
Washed Poppa's car	$10	$45
Washed Dad's car	$10	$55
Washed Mum's car	$10	$65
Washed Mrs Chen's car	$10	$75
Cleaned Mrs Chen's windows	$10	$85
Bonus from Mrs Chen	$5	$90



Retell this Recount

Read this recount again.
Record yourself as you retell the recount.
Listen to the recording.
Check! Did you remember most things in the recount?

Questions about *My Savings Plan*

1 Why did the boy want to buy an action camera?
2 Why did the boy and his mother go online to find the perfect camera?
3 Why did the boys have to wait until the golfers had gone home before they were allowed to look for golf balls?
4 Why do you think the boys only found seven golf balls?
5 Why did Mrs Chen think the boy and his family were going somewhere special?
6 Why does Mrs Chen take her dog to the poodle groomer?
7 Why didn't the boy hear Mrs Chen when she was offering him a job?
8 Why did Mrs Chen's windows glisten after they had been cleaned?
9 Why do you think Mrs Chen gave the boy a $5 bonus?
10 Why was a savings plan a good idea?

Vocabulary

Replace the adjective 'disappointed' in this sentence: *I felt quite disappointed when I arrived back home.*

For Review Only

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