



Oxford
Reading
Tree

What Is It?



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Story written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrations by Alex Brychta



What's this story about?

Floppy finds an unusual creature in the park. No one knows what it is. They fetch Mum. She says it is a salamander and that it is lost. They take it to an animal rescue centre.

Talk together

Look at the picture and read the title on the cover. Ask, "What do you think this creature is?" Talk about any strange animals the children have seen in a zoo or pet shop.

Read the story

W = Word recognition **C** = Language comprehension

- W** Begin to read the story together.
- W** Encourage children to read alone as sentences are repeated.
- W** Show children how to use letter sounds to work out words they are stuck on, e.g. 'f-r-o-g', 'l-i-z-a-r-d'.
- C** Page 14, ask, "Why did Mum hold the salamander on a leaf?"
- C** Page 16, talk about what might happen to the salamander.
- W** Ask children to read the story again from the beginning.



Floppy barked.

Floppy barked and barked.





“What is it?” said Biff.

Biff looked.





“What is it?” she said.

Wilf looked.





“What is it?” he said.

“What is it?” said Wilma.





“Is it a frog?”

“What is it?” said Chip.





“Is it a lizard?”

Mum looked at it.





“What is it?” said the children.

“It’s a salamander,” said Mum.





“It’s lost,” she said.



The salamander was safe.

Play a game

What is it?

To help children practise describing things.

- Think of an animal and describe it in two or three sentences.
- Can children guess the animal you are describing?
- Children then describe an animal for you to guess.
- Have several goes each.

Other ideas

You can use these ideas straight away or on another day.

- Ask children to count the number of times 'what' is repeated in the story. Practise spelling 'what'.
- Find out more about salamanders on the Internet or in the library.

What Is It?

What has Floppy found?

This story practises these words:

a and at he is it look(ed)
mum said she was



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