

LEVELED BOOK • J

Wonders of Nature



**Multi
level
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Written by Cheryl Ryan

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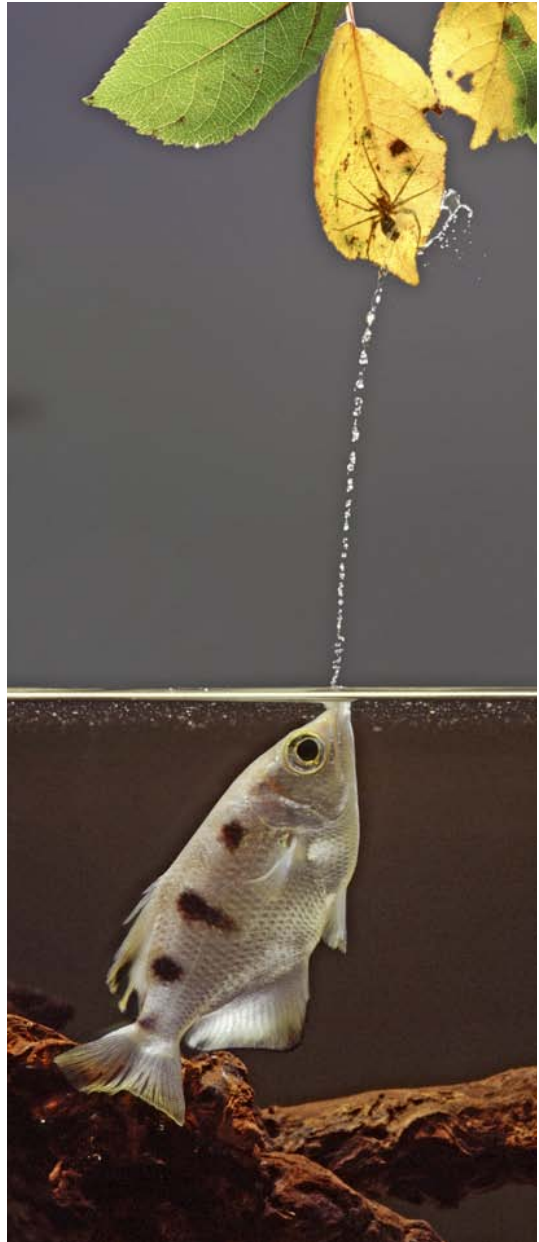
A male bower bird puts colorful objects in its home.

Introduction

The world is full of interesting animals.
Some animals look strange or have
special skills.
Let's look at some of these wonders
of **nature**.

Archerfish

Archerfish spit water at bugs. The bugs fall into the water, where the archerfish catch and eat them.



Trap-Door Spider

The trap-door spider lives in a tunnel in the ground.

Its home has a hidden door made of **silk** and dirt.

The spider hides in its tunnel to hunt.





Beaver

Beavers chew through tree trunks. They make **dams** out of trees, mud, and stones.

Chameleon

Chameleons change color to hide themselves.

They even change color to show how they feel.





Flying Dragon

Flying dragons have skin on their sides that opens like wings. They jump and **glide** from tree to tree.

Leaf Insect

The body parts of leaf insects look just like leaves.

These animals blend in well with real leaves on trees.



Leaf-Rolling Weevil

The female leaf-rolling weevil rolls a leaf into a cone.

She lays her eggs inside the cone.

The leaf hides and protects her eggs.





Praying Mantis

The praying mantis holds its front legs in a praying position.

A mantis has five eyes to help it hunt for food.

Mole

Moles dig tunnels to find and eat worms.

These animals have tiny eyes, but they are not blind.



Side view of a mole's nest and tunnels

Sea Dragon

Sea dragons are small fish.
They look like ocean plants.
Their leafy parts help them catch
food and hide from enemies.





The three-wattled bell bird makes a strange sound.

Conclusion

Interesting animals come in many shapes and sizes.

They are all wonders of nature.

Glossary

dams (*n.*) walls that stop the flow of water (p. 7)

glide (*v.*) to move smoothly and quietly through air or water (p. 9)

nature (*n.*) the natural world, including animals, plants, and land (p. 4)

silk (*n.*) threads produced by a spider or caterpillar (p. 6)

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Fountas & Pinnell	J
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A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book

Word Count: 238



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