

LEVELED BOOK • G

A Taste for Blood



Written by Anthony Curran

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Focus Question

What animals drink blood?



A leech sucks blood from the eyeball of a fish.

All animals need to eat food
to live.

For some animals, that food
is another animal's blood.



Mosquitoes find animals to feed on by following their breath.

Female mosquitoes drink blood.
These small insects leave
marks that itch.



A lamprey (main) doesn't have jaws, but it has gills like other fish.
A lamprey's mouth (inset) can have more than one hundred teeth.

Some lampreys drink blood.
These fish have round mouths
full of little teeth.



A vampire bat gets a meal from a young cow (top).
Vampire bats have razor-sharp teeth (bottom).

Some bats drink blood.
These mammals fly out to feed
at night.



A tick attached to a dog's face fills up with blood (main).
A tick crawls across an animal's fur (inset).

Ticks drink blood.

These insects hide on leaves
or grass.

They grab onto animals that
walk past them.



A leech sucks blood from a human leg.

Most leeches drink blood.
These worms live in marshes,
rivers, and ponds.



A vampire finch drinks blood from the back of a masked booby.

One kind of bird drinks blood.
These small birds peck
at larger birds.



A bedbug (top) can live for more than one year without eating.
A bedbug crawls across a human thumb (bottom).

Bedbugs drink blood.

These insects hide
in and around beds.



A flea jumps high over a cat's body (main). The shape of a flea's body lets it move easily through hair or fur (inset).

Fleas drink blood.

These insects can't fly, but they can jump very far.



A head louse gets caught on the teeth of a comb.

Animals with a taste for
blood have been around
for a long time.
You don't want to be their
next meal!

Words to Know

blood

insects

lampreys

leeches

mammals

mosquitoes

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Front cover: A tiger leech sucks on a human finger.

Title page: A lamprey swims in the waters of the North Sea.

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Correlation

LEVEL G	
Fountas & Pinnell	G
Reading Recovery	11–12
DRA	12

A Taste for Blood

A Reading A-Z Level G Leveled Book

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Connections

Writing

Write a paragraph comparing an animal you know well with one from the book. What do they eat? How are they the same and different?

Science

In groups, research one of the animals from the book. Create a poster that includes the name of the animal, where it lives, and how it eats. Add extra information and pictures.



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