

WORLD'S STRANGEST

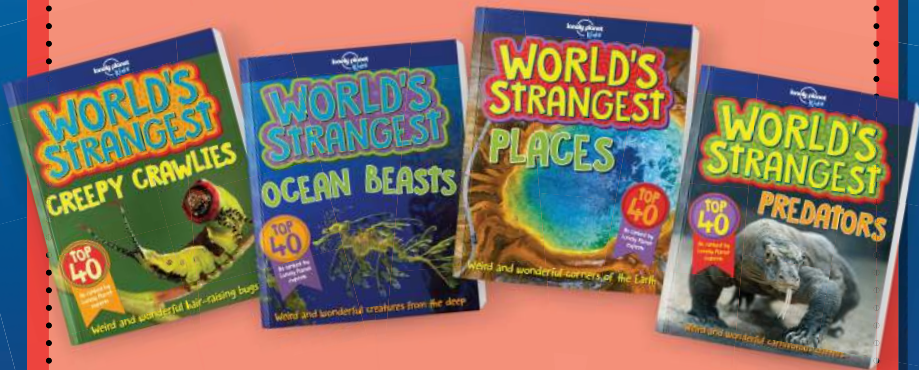
fun
quiz
inside



Welcome to the weird, wacky and downright bizarre.

From exploding ants and goblin sharks to trapdoor spiders and forgotten cities, our World's Strangest series ranks the planet's most spectacular and mind-boggling creatures and places.

Inside this free sampler, you'll discover some of our favourite entries from:



There's also a quiz to test your knowledge at the end!

THE STRANGEOMETER

The crazy creatures and places in these books are all unique in their own ways, so we've used a special strangeometer to rank them against each other, including:

STRANGEOMETER



APPEARANCE

13/25



WEIRD ABILITIES

18/25



RARITY

3/25



STRANGENESS

15/25



STRANGEOMETER SCORE

49/100

- ☆ Strangeness
- ☆ Danger
- ☆ Cunning
- ☆ Ferocity
- ☆ Appearance
- ☆ Weird abilities
- ☆ Rarity
- ☆ Uniqueness
- ☆ Wow factor
- ☆ Mysteriousness
- ☆ Surreal factor
- ☆ Creepiness
- ☆ Superpowers
- ☆ Bug beauty
- ☆ Fight factor

Find me and loads more
brilliantly bizarre bugs
inside World's Strangest
Creepy-Crawlies.

Female thorn
bugs lay around
100 eggs at
a time. Baby
thorn bugs
are the size of
sesame seeds.

Thorn bugs are masters of
disguise. Their bright colours
show up—close, but farther away,
they actually make them
really hard to see.



All continents except Antarctica

WE SUCK THE SAP FROM
PLANTS TO SURVIVE.

THORN BUG

Looking like a spiky thorn helps these bugs avoid getting eaten by birds and large insects.

STRANGEOMETER



CREEPINESS

22/25



SUPERPOWERS

20/25



BUG BEAUTY

25/25



FIGHT FACTOR

9/25



STRANGEOMETER SCORE

76/100

Thorn bugs talk to each other by making the plant they are standing on vibrate. Humans can't hear their calls unless a special microphone is attached to the plant. Some people say their calls sound like whale song.

Find me and loads more
crazy sea creatures in
**World's Strangest
Ocean Beasts.**



Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico,
Amazon basin, West Africa

These gentle mammals
are also called sea cows,
and are found in coastal
waters and rivers. They feed
on grass, algae and weeds.
Manatees 'walk' on the bottom
of the sea with their flippers.



MANATEE

When explorer Christopher Columbus first saw manatees, he thought they were mermaids. He was a bit disappointed that they weren't as beautiful as he thought mermaids would be.

SEA COW? I'M ACTUALLY
RELATED TO ELEPHANTS
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!

Manatees
never leave
the water, but
they have
to breathe
air above
the surface.

STRANGEOMETER



APPEARANCE

17/25



WEIRD ABILITIES

10/25



RARITY

14/25



STRANGENESS

15/25



STRANGEOMETER SCORE

56/100

You'll find me in
World's Strangest
Ocean Beasts too!

RED-LIPPED BATFISH

This pouty-lipped fish definitely has a face you'll never forget. But that's not all – its fins have been specially adapted so that it looks as if it walks on the sea bed. It can't actually swim very well.

STRANGEOMETER



APPEARANCE

25/25



WEIRD ABILITIES

20/25



RARITY

17/25



STRANGENESS

20/25



STRANGEOMETER SCORE

82/100

Scientists think that those large, red, kissable lips are designed to attract a mate. They're certainly hard to miss. Mwah!

The batfish also has a long nose which sticks out and is used to attract prey, even if it doesn't attract a mate.

GIVE US A KISS!



Find me and loads more amazing areas in World's Strangest Places.

UNDERWATER POST OFFICE

If you want to post a letter in the world's only underwater post office, make sure it's waterproof! To reach it, you have to dive 3m (10ft) under the sea.



Vanuatu

WE USE A SPECIAL STAMP THAT MAKES A MARK UNDERWATER WITHOUT INK.

The Post Office is just off the coast of Hideaway Island, one of the 83 islands that make up the Republic of Vanuatu. A flag floating on the water above the Post Office shows when it's open. Even when it's closed you can mail a postcard in the letterbox attached to the Post Office.

STRANGEOMETER



UNIQUENESS

22/25



WOW FACTOR

20/25



MYSTERIOUSNESS

7/25



SURREAL FACTOR

20/25



STRANGEOMETER SCORE

69/100

Visitors to Vanuatu can also post a letter in a post box on the fiery rim of a volcano. Imagine posting a letter with molten lava exploding in the air just a few metres away!



Venezuela

STRANGEOMETER



#26

Lake Maracaibo has more lightning strikes than anywhere else on the planet. Storms occur 260 nights a year, each one lasting for about nine hours.

There was no lightning between January and March 2010 and people thought it might have stopped altogether – but the spectacular electric storms were soon back again.

The lightning lake is so famous it's shown on the flag of the state of Zulia, home to Lake Maracaibo, and is mentioned in the state anthem!

LAKE MARACAIBO

They say lightning never strikes the same place twice, but that's certainly not true at Lake Maracaibo. Here, every square kilometre receives around 250 lightning strikes every year!

Find me and loads more horrible hunters in World's Strangest Predators.

THE CLUE IS IN MY NAME. I'M A MONSTROUS PREDATOR!

STRANGEOMETER



STRANGENESS

15/25



DANGER

15/25



CUNNING

12/25



FEROCITY

15/25



STRANGEOMETER SCORE

57/100

A bite from a Gila is very painful, but don't try to shake the creature off. The best way to get it to let go is to dunk its head underwater.

GILA MONSTER

The Gila monster is one of the few venomous lizards. It grabs and holds onto its prey for up to 15 minutes while its venom attacks the nerves of its victim.



The Gila swallows its prey alive if it's small or crushes it to death if it's bigger. It doesn't chew its food but swallows it whole. It can eat about a third of its body weight in one sitting and stores fat in its tail, which allows it to go up to a year without food.

It's time to test
your knowledge!

Quiz

1.

How do
thorn bugs
talk to each
other?

2.

What did
Christopher
Columbus think
manatees
were?

3.



What is this fish?

4.

How deep is
the Underwater
Post Office?

5.

On how many
nights a year does
Lake Maracaibo
have lightning
strikes?

How do
you get a
gila monster
to release its
bite?

6.

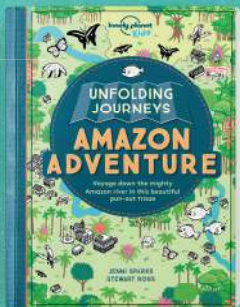
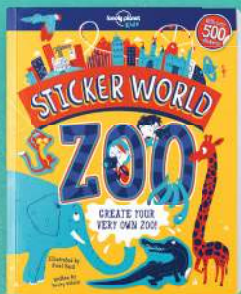
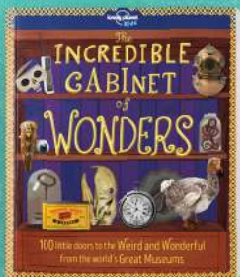
ANSWERS

1. THEY MAKE PLANTS VIBRATE 2. MERMAIDS
3. RED-LIPPED BATFISH 4. 3M (10FT) 5. ABOUT 260
6. DUNK IT UNDER WATER




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Astonishing, bonkers and just plain odd,
Lonely Planet takes you on a round-the-world
adventure into the weird world of creepy-crawlies,
predators and oceans beasts, and a tantalising tour
of the planet's strangest places.

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