
Amazing Creatures of the Galapagos Islands

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Article 1: Finding a Mate

Comprehension Questions

1. How does the male blue-footed booby attract a mate?
 - a. By finding special food for the female.
 - b. By showing the female a home that he has found.
 - c. By sky-pointing and showing off his blue feet.
 - d. By building an island out of plants and other living things.

2. Why do blue-footed boobies lay a circle of guano around the spot where they are nesting?
 - a. To attract frigate birds and fiddler crabs as food.
 - b. To stop other creatures from finding the boobies' eggs and eating them.
 - c. To mark their nest and to help keep their chicks apart from other nests.
 - d. To help the chicks find their way back after they leave the nest.

Vocabulary Questions

1. A male great frigate bird has a red pouch on its throat. The pouch is called a _____.
 - a. sac
 - b. crush
 - c. mate
 - d. tortoise

2. _____ is something that is done over and over again in the same way.
 - a. Nature
 - b. A ritual
 - c. Wildlife
 - d. An article

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Article 2: Fighting for a Mate

Comprehension Questions

1. What happens to young male sea lions that don't have mates?
 - a. They chase the beachmasters into the sea and fight underwater.
 - b. They bark at each other and try to bite each other.
 - c. *They hang out together in groups called herds.*
 - d. They mate with females who are too small to have turf of their own.
2. How do male giant tortoises get mates?
 - a. *They fight with other males to win the right to mate with females.*
 - b. They chase the females in the water and start a mating ritual.
 - c. They make a nest to mark the spot where the females will lay their eggs.
 - d. They win some turf by sky-pointing with other giant tortoises.

Vocabulary Questions

1. A _____ is a male sea lion.
 - a. giant
 - b. guano
 - c. mate
 - d. *bull*
2. A male sea lion that does not get to mate with females is called a _____.
 - a. *bachelor*
 - b. booby
 - c. fiddler
 - d. beachmaster

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Article 3: A Lonely Old Tortoise

Comprehension Questions

1. Why is Lonesome George so special?
 - a. Because he belonged to a scientist from England.
 - b. Because he may be the last member of the Pinta race of giant tortoises.
 - c. Because he helps the park wardens to protect Pinta Island from baby goats.
 - d. Because scientists believe that Lonesome George is over 200 years old.
2. Scientists may try to make a clone of Lonesome George. What would they have to do next?
 - a. They would have to find a female Pinta tortoise to help raise the clone.
 - b. They would have to pay a zoo \$10,000 to keep the clone safe.
 - c. They would have to change the clone from a male to a female.
 - d. They would have to kill any animals on the island that might eat the clone.

Vocabulary Questions

1. If all the animals of one kind die out completely, we say that this kind of animal has become _____.
 - a. extinct
 - b. wildlife
 - c. lonesome
 - d. unusual
2. Scientists can make an exact copy of a living thing in a lab. The copy is called _____.
 - a. an offspring
 - b. an egg
 - c. a clone
 - d. a papaya

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Article 4: Finding Food on the Galapagos

Comprehension Questions

1. Why don't great frigate birds swim in the water?
 - a. Because sea lions would snatch the birds and eat them.
 - b. Because frigate birds eat grass that grows on land.
 - c. Because the red pouch on their throats is too big for swimming.
 - d. *Because their oil gland is too small to keep their feathers waterproof.*
2. How does a giant tortoise help birds to get more food?
 - a. *By letting the birds eat bugs on its neck and legs.*
 - b. By carrying fruit and other plants to the beach.
 - c. By catching more fish than it can eat.
 - d. By digging up bugs that live in the sand.

Vocabulary Questions

1. A _____ is a part of the body that makes oil, sweat, or tears.
 - a. clone
 - b. *gland*
 - c. guano
 - d. tick
2. Most sea birds make an oil that keeps their feathers _____.
 - a. soggy
 - b. fluffy
 - c. *waterproof*
 - d. apart