



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Tell Someone Else

Look at the pictures. Answer these questions in pairs:



1. What do you know about spiders?
Tell someone else some information.
2. Why are some spiders dangerous?
(*dangerous* - can hurt us)
3. Can you think of the name of a dangerous spider? Tell your partner.



5. What do you know about snakes?
Tell someone else some information.
6. Why are some snakes dangerous?
7. Can you think of the name of a venomous (a snake that has poison) snake? Tell your partner.

4. What does a spider make? Draw a picture of one.



Reading Activities

A: Predicting From The Headline

Read the headlines of today's articles.

Snakes in Towns

Hot and Angry Spiders Are Going Inside!

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Work in small groups and answer these questions.

1. Where are the snakes?
2. Why could they be going to these places?
3. Where are the spiders going?
4. Why could they be going inside?

Compare your answers with other groups.

B: Reading for Understanding

i. Read **Part One** of today's first article on the next page quickly and answer these questions. Try not to use your dictionary.

1. Where are the snakes going?
2. What is making the snakes do this?
3. Why is this dangerous for people?

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Snakes in Towns

January 22, 2007 Canberra, (Reuters) - Snakes are going into **urban** areas in Australia because they are looking for water. Some of the snakes are brown snakes, one of the world's deadliest snakes.

The very hot weather and **drought** in Australia make the snakes to travel to look for water. A 16-year-old boy died in Sydney last week after an Eastern Brown snake bit him while in Darwin another brown snake killed a man in his...garden.

"Snakes do drink water and we are seeing a lot more brown snakes...than other snakes, because they really like the open and cleared land in towns," Mary Rayner, Australian Reptile Park General Manager said.

She said brown snakes will defend themselves and give many bites instead of going away. Other **venomous** snakes will go away if they see a human. (Continued/...)

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Words: urban - of a town or city, drought - no rain for a long time so the land is very dry, venomous - poisonous

ii. Read **Part One** of today's second article quickly and answer these questions. Try not to use your dictionary.

1. Where are the spiders going? _____.
2. What is making the spiders do this? _____.
3. What is destroying their webs? _____.

Part one:

Hot and Angry Spiders Are Going Inside!

A Friday, February 11, Sydney, (Reuters) - Australians be careful: Australia's redback spiders are going indoors!

Scientists say Australia's hot, humid and wet summer weather is making redback spiders go into houses.

Redback spiders usually live in **sheds**, gardens and under

roofs. Queensland Museum **arachnologist** Robert Raven said there has been rain and wind in Queensland and New South Wales this summer. The rain and wind have pushed leaves into the roof **gutters** which destroys the spiders' webs so they come into homes.

(Continued/...)

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Words: shed - a small building where things are kept, arachnologist - a person who studies spiders, gutter - a pipe under the edge of a roof that carries rainwater away

C: True Or False?

Read these sentences. Decide if they are true (T) or false (F) using the first and second article.

1. In Australia there was a drought in January 2007.
2. Brown snakes are poisonous.
3. Brown snakes like going to places with lots of trees.
4. In Australia the summer weather in 2005 was cold, windy and wet.
5. Robert Raven knows a lot about spiders.
6. Robert Raven works at the Queensland Museum.
7. Redback spiders live inside houses.
8. The spiders make their webs inside houses.

D: Comprehension

Read **Part Two** of the articles. Answer these questions.

1. Who was bitten near Canberra?
2. How many snake bites are there each year in Australia?
3. What does hotter weather do to snakes?

Part Two:

(.../Continued) One 59-year-old man was bitten by a snake on the knee on Monday north of Canberra city as he walked close by his home and another snake bit a 60-year-old man on the wrist at a seaside town in Victoria state.

There are between 500 and 3000 snakes bites each year in Australia, especially from brown snakes. The warmer weather makes the snakes faster and hungrier.

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4. Which should you be frightened of: the female or the male spider? Why?
5. What do you need if the redback spider bites you?
6. Is the picture of a male or a female redback spider? Why?
7. How many people are bitten by redback spiders each day?



Part Two:

(.../Continued) A female redback's bite usually results in very bad pain.

There is an anti-venom for the bite. This stops someone

from dying. The female has a red stripe on its back. Raven says there have been reports of one bite a day.

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anti-venom - the medicine given to people who have been bitten by a poisonous (venomous) animal.

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Language

Part one:

We can count spiders (*one spider, two spiders, three spiders* etc.) sheds and houses.

Spider, shed and house are examples of **countable nouns**.

Countable nouns can be **singular** (*a spider*) or **plural** (*many spiders*).

We can put **a (or an)** in front of countable nouns.

We can add an **s** to the end of a countable noun to make it plural.

We can use **a few, fewer** and **many** in front of countable nouns.

We use **any + a plural** noun in negatives and questions.

We use **some + a plural** noun in a positive sentence.

Some nouns can only be singular.

They are called **uncountable** nouns.

Rain and **weather** are examples of uncountable nouns.

Here are some other examples of uncountable nouns: **traffic, music, money, dirt, water, oil**.

We do not put **a** or **an** in front of uncountable nouns.

We do not add an **s** to the end of the word.

We can use **much, a little** and **less** with uncountable nouns.

We use **any** with an uncountable noun in questions and negatives.

We use **some** with an uncountable noun in a positive sentence.

A lot of and **lots of** can be used with both uncountable and countable nouns in positive sentences.

Part Two

Find the grammatical errors in the sentences below.
Underline them. Correct them.

1. I have many spider in my shed.
2. I killed a spiders in my home yesterday.
3. The weathers was very bad last week.
4. Did you have a rain last week?
5. Help! There are five spider in the bathroom.
6. Spiders drink waters.

Part Three

Choose **much** or **many** in these questions.

1. Was there **much/many** rain last night?
2. How **much/many** water was left?
3. How **much/manyspiders** are there in your bathroom?
4. Do you play **much/many** music while you are working?
5. How **much/many** oil does your truck need?
6. Were there **much/many** people at the park?

Part Four

Write countable or uncountable next to these nouns.

shoe _____, flour _____, sand _____, apple _____, ice _____,
milk _____, flower _____, garbage bin _____, table _____, bicycle _____.

B: Discussion

Tell other students about an animal that you like. Where does it live? What does it do?



*There are a few spiders in my house.
Do you have many spiders in your home?
Fewer sheds are built now.*

*There aren't any spiders in my house.
Are there any spiders in your house?*

There are some spiders in my house.

*The rain was very heavy.
The weather was very hot.*

*Was there much rain yesterday?
There was a little rain.*

*Did you have any bad weather last week?
Was there any rain last night?*

We had some hot weather last week.

*There are lots of spiders here.
We had a lot of bad weather last week.*

TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Tell Someone Else - Notes

Some spiders and snakes are dangerous because of their venom--(this word is used in today's article). They use the venom to kill the things they catch (or stop the prey from moving). Spiders make webs: draw a picture of one on the board if necessary.

Reading Activities

A: Predicting From The Headline - Answers

1. The snakes are in towns.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Going inside normally suggests someone is entering something like a house.
4. Answers will vary.

B: Reading for Understanding - Answers

- i.1. They are going into urban areas (towns and cities) in Australia.
2. The hot weather and the Australian drought because they are thirsty.
3. Some of the snakes are brown snakes which are deadly and attack rather than retreating.
- ii.1. They are going indoors into houses.
2. Australia's hot and humid summer weather.
3. Leaves that have been pushed into roof gutters because of wind and rain.
4. Answers will vary.

C: True Or False? - Answers

1. T, 2. T, 3. F (they like cleared, open land), 4. F (not cold. It was hot.), 5. T, 6. T, 7. F (The unusual weather made them come inside homes.), 8. F (They make them inside roof gutters which are outside houses.)

D: Comprehension - Answers

1. A 59-year-old man.
2. Between 500 and 3000 snake bites.
3. Make them faster and hungrier.
4. The female because its bite is very painful.
5. Anti-venom.
6. A female because the female has a red stripe.
7. About one a day.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Language - Answers

Part One

1. I have many spider in my shed. (Correct: I have many spiders in my shed.)
2. I killed a spiders in my home yesterday. (Correct: I killed a spider in my home yesterday.)
3. The weathers was very bad last week. (Correct: The weather was very bad last week.)
4. Did you have a rain last week? (Correct: Did you have (any) rain last week?)
5. Help! There are five spider in the bathroom. (Correct: Help! There are five spiders in the bathroom.)
6. Spiders drink waters. (Correct: Spiders drink water.)

Part Two

1. much, 2. much, 3. many, 4. much, 5. much, 6. many.

Part Three

shoe - *countable*, flour - *uncountable*, sand - *uncountable*, apple - *countable*, ice - *uncountable*, milk - *uncountable*, flower - *countable*, garbage bin - *countable*, table - *countable*, bicycle - *countable*.

