Coral Reef Animals

Informational article (2 versions)
QR Code Research Page & Fact Sort



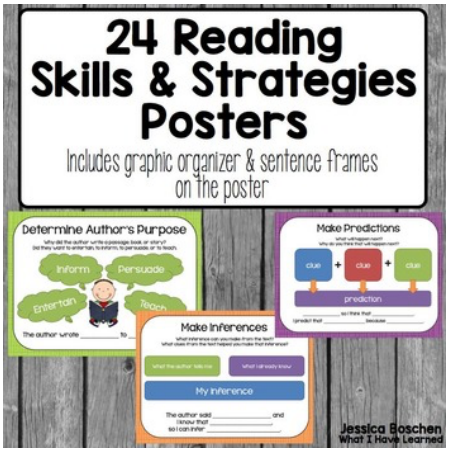
Clownfish
Coral
Giant Clam
Manta Ray
Sea Cucumber
Sea Slug
Sea Star
Sea Turtle
Sea Urchin
Tiger Shark

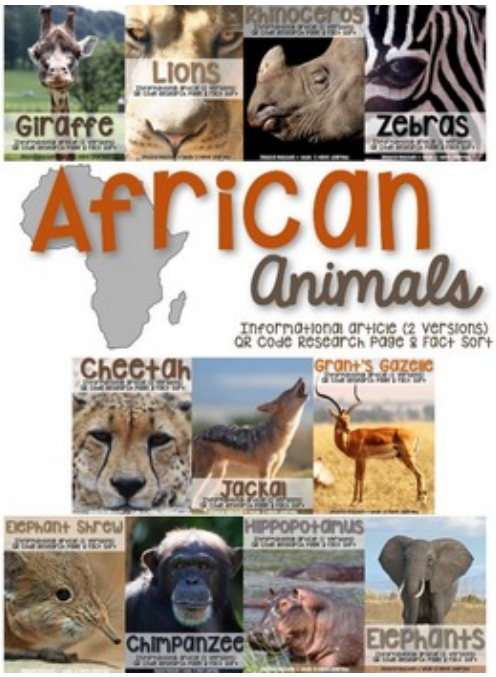
WHAT I have LEARNED

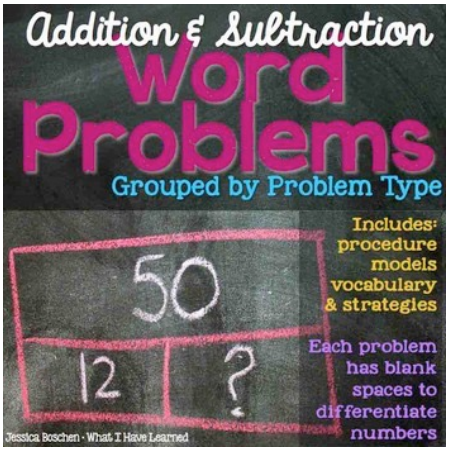
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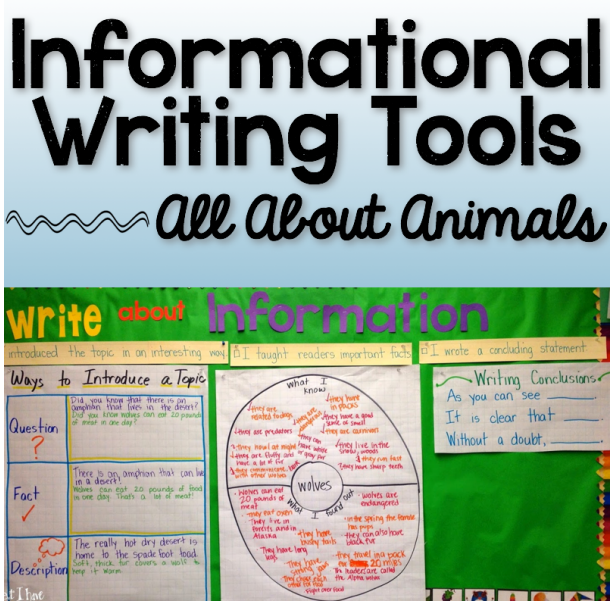
The following articles about Coral Reef animals are written at a second and third grade reading level. They all follow a similar format and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

The articles come in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for web sites and videos that give additional information about each animal. If you find that any QR code does not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of web sites, including Youtube (via SafeShare). Be sure you can access Youtube at your school.

The fact sort sheets are facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the given categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.



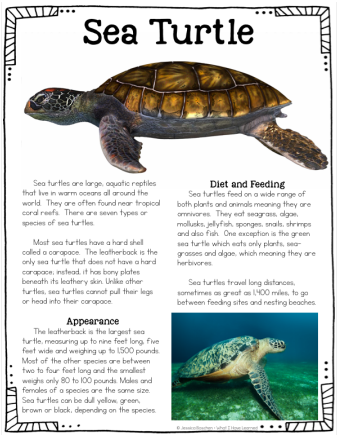
The following vocabulary words come up frequently in the articles. I find it helpful to present them to students before reading.

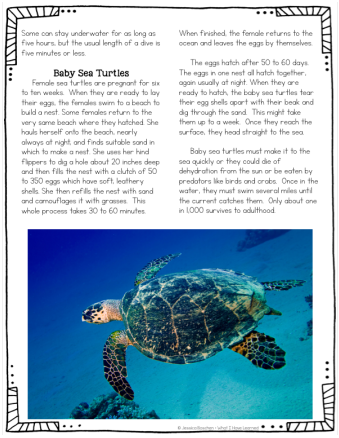
Coral Reef Animals

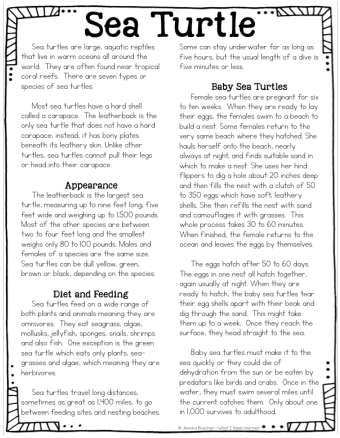
Two page with pictures.

Condensed one-page

Two versions of the reading passages







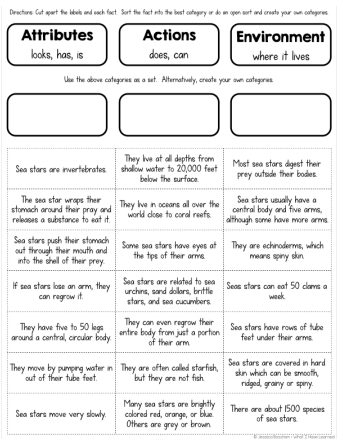
QR Codes for Additional Research







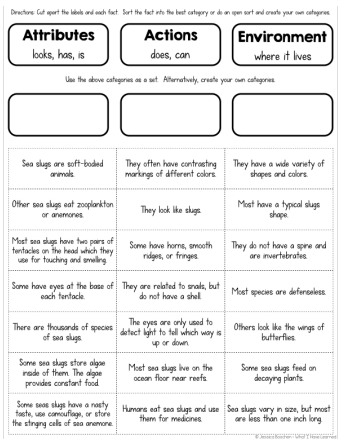
Fact Sort


Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.		
Sea stars are invertebrates.	They live at all depths from shallow water to 20,000 feet below the surface.	Most sea stars digest their prey outside their bodies.
The sea star wraps their stomach around their prey and releases a substance to eat it.	They live in oceans all over the world close to coral reefs.	Sea stars usually have a central body and five arms, although some have more arms.
Sea stars push their stomach out through their mouth and into the shell of their prey.	Some sea stars have eyes at the tips of their arms.	They are echinoderms, which means spiny skin.
If sea stars lose an arm, they can regrow it.	Sea stars are related to sea urchins, sand dollars, brittle stars, and sea cucumbers.	Seas stars can eat 50 clams a week.
They have five to 50 legs around a central, circular body.	They can even regrow their entire body from just a portion of their arm.	Sea stars have rows of tube feet under their arms.
They move by pumping water in out of their tube feet.	They are often called starfish, but they are not fish.	Sea stars are covered in hard skin which can be smooth, ridged, granny or spiny.
Sea stars move very slowly.	Many sea stars are brightly colored red, orange, or blue. Others are grey or brown.	There are about 1500 species of sea stars.


Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.		
Sea turtles are reptiles.	The leatherback is the largest sea turtle at nine feet long.	Female sea turtles are pregnant for six to ten weeks.
When females are ready to lay their eggs, they swim to a beach to build a nest.	Sea turtles live in warm oceans all around the world.	Most sea turtles are two-four feet long.
Some females return to the same beach where they hatched to lay their eggs.	Sea turtles are omnivores.	The are found near tropical coral reefs.
They eat seagrass, algae, mollusks, jellyfish, sponges, seals, shrimp and fish.	There are seven species of sea turtles.	Females use their hind flippers to dig a hole about 20 inches deep.
Most sea turtles have a hard shell called a carapace.	Sea turtles travel long distances to go between feeding sites and nesting beaches.	Females fill the nest with 50-200 eggs and then refills it with sand.
The eggs hatch after about 50-60 days.	The sea turtle cannot pull its legs or head into their shell.	Some sea turtles can stay underwater for as long as five hours, but most dive for about 5 minutes.
It takes about a week for sea turtles to dig out of their shells and nests.	When ready to hatch,t he baby sea turtles teacher the egg shells apart with their beak.	The leatherback sea turtle does not have a shell, but has bony plates underneath its skin.


Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.		
Sea slugs are soft-bodied animals.	They often have contrasting markings of different colors.	They have a wide variety of shapes and colors.
Other sea slugs eat zooplankton or anemones.	They look like slugs.	Most have a typical slugs shape.
Most sea slugs have two pairs of tentacles on the head which they use for touching and smelling.	Some have horns, smooth ridges, or fringes.	They do not have a spine and are invertebrates.
Some have eyes at the base of each tentacle.	They are related to snails, but do not have a shell.	Most species are defenseless.
There are thousands of species of sea slugs.	The eyes are only used to detect light to tell which way is up or down.	Others look like the wings of butterflies.
Some sea slugs store algae inside of them. The algae provides constant food.	Most sea slugs live on the ocean floor near reefs.	Some sea slugs feed on decaying plants.
Some sea slugs have a nasty taste, use camouflage, or store the stinging cells of sea anemone.	Humans eat sea slugs and use them for medicines.	Sea slugs vary in size, but most are less than one inch long.