

## **AUSTRALIAN STANDING ORDERS NON-FICTION TEACHER NOTES FORMAT**

### **Kingfisher: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANIMALS**

#### **SYNOPSIS**

*Everything You Need to Know About Animals* is a comprehensive reference book that explores the huge variety of species in the animal kingdom and how they live. The first section is all about the different types of animals, exploring topics such as single celled, shelled, feathery and furry animals. Finding food is the focus of the second section. Topics include Leaf-eaters, animals that hunt, spider traps, vampires, scavengers and parasites. The third section follows by exploring animal senses and how they are used for example during hunting and at night. The final section of this book concentrates on how different animals reproduce, grow and live together. The encyclopedia is illustrated with striking colour photography and artwork.

#### **WRITING STYLE**

The book is written in clear and direct non-fiction style. Each spread begins with an introduction followed by a number of short paragraphs supported by eye-catching, colourful illustrations. At the end of each section there is a summary page, recapping what the reader has learnt. Additional creative activities can be found on some spreads. Every spread contains a link to a website encouraging readers to find out further information about the topic. Each chapter includes fact boxes containing interesting snippets of relevant information, along with 'Superscience' boxes providing in-depth information about the subject. 'Vocabulary notepad' boxes are used to provide a running glossary throughout the book and 'Question circle' features supply answers to scientific questions. 'Can you find?' boxes encourage the reader to look at the illustrations in the book and complete observational tasks.

#### **AUTHOR BACKGROUND**

Nicola Davies is a writer, zoologist and television presenter, and lives in Devon, England. She began her career studying geese and humpback whales and then became a researcher and presenter of the BBC's *The Really Wild Show*. Since then she has written many children's books on everything from human biology, blue whales and turtles to bats, owls and climate change. She also teaches creative writing to BA and MA students.

#### **EDITORIAL COMMENT**

*Everything You Need to Know About Animals* has been thoroughly researched by the author and editor. It has also been checked for factual accuracy by the author. Careful research has ensured that the illustrations clearly promote understanding of the topics covered.

## TEACHER/ACTIVITIES/NOTES

- Find all the 'From the past' boxes and use the facts in them to make a timeline about ancient animals.
- Find information about animals that live underground. Write a poem describing their habitat and how they live.
- Look for different ways animals find food, including how they hunt or trap prey. Choose your top ten and present them in the style of a radio chart show.
- Research a habitat, such as under the sea or in the desert. Pretend you are a radio reporter visiting it. Use facts from this book in your 'live' report.
- Find unusual ways that animals move. Create a two-minute presentation where you act out how they get about.
- Look for plants throughout the book. How do animals use them?
- Read the 'Now you know' pages. Make your own 'Now you know'-style poster using other information from this book.
- What strange animal diets can you find in this book? Write a report about the weird foods that some animals eat.
- Choose a top five 'cuddly', 'weird' or 'scary' animals. Show them in a chart.

Study the 'Can you find' boxes in this book. Make up your own about a local habitat, such as your garden or the park.