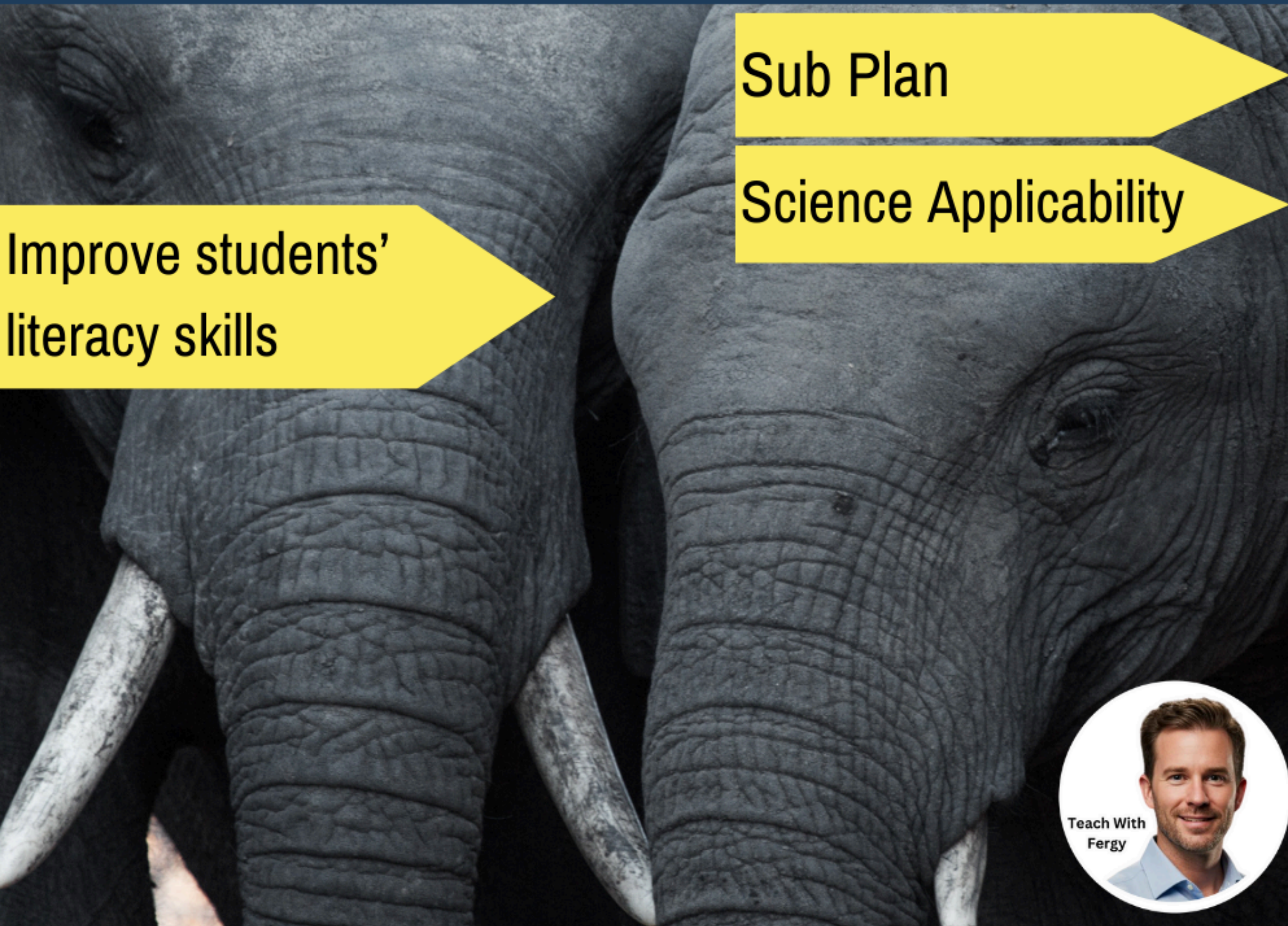


LOVE AND PAIR BONDING IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE READING



Improve students'
literacy skills

Sub Plan

Science Applicability



Teach With
Fergy

Reading Comment



★★★★★ Extremely satisfied - Great resource to work on student reading comprehension and it tied into the topic I was teaching. My students have been struggling with reading and I've been incorporating more reading into my lessons. Thank you for the resource.



SCROLL
to take a look inside!

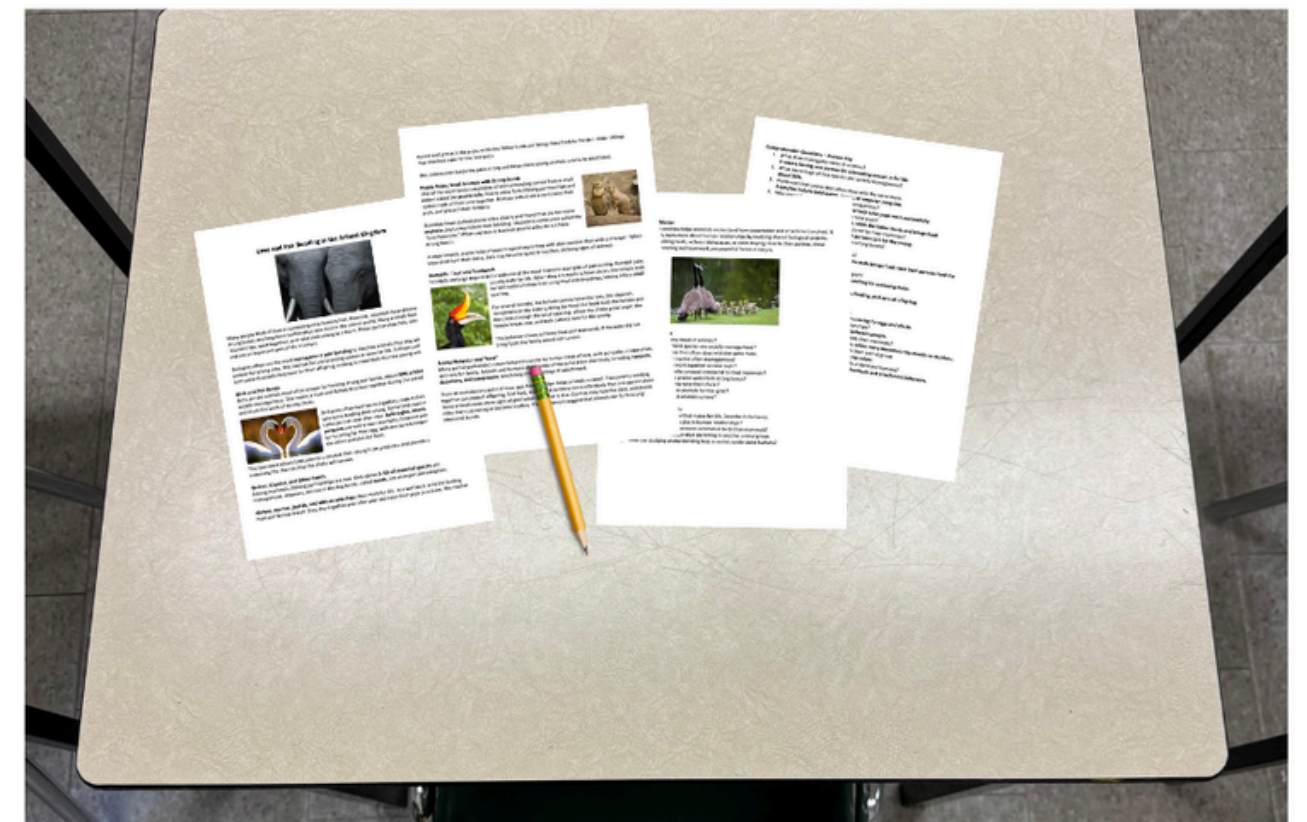


THE PROBLEMS YOU FACE

- Limited time to teach scientific literacy and strengthen students' reading and analysis skills.
- Need meaningful extension activities to engage fast-moving learners.
- Difficulty creating effective last-minute sub plans that still support student learning.

NO-PREP - PRINT/UPLOAD

- Questions and Answer Key
- **No Prep, Ready-to-Use:** Print or assign digitally with Google Docs, Microsoft Word, and PDF formats for flexible classroom use
- **Includes Varied Question Types:** Knowledge, thinking, connecting, application, and open-ended questions.



What Will Your Students Learn?

READING COMPREHENSION ARTICLE & QUESTIONS

- What Is Pair Bonding and Monogamy?
- Social Monogamy in Birds
- Shared Parenting and Cooperative Care
- Wolves, Coyotes, and Other Canids
- Prairie Voles and Hormonal Bonding
- Oxytocin and Attachment Chemistry
- Hornbill Nesting and Extreme Trust
- Grief-Like Behavior in Animals
- Evolutionary Benefits of Long-Term Partnerships
- Connections Between Animal and Human Bonding

Comprehension Questions

1. What does monogamy mean in animals?
2. What percentage of bird species are socially monogamous?
3. Name one bird species that often stays with the same mate.
4. Why are some animals socially monogamous?
5. How do scientists study animal behavior?
6. What methods do scientists use to observe animal behavior?
7. Which animals are known for forming strong pair bonds?
8. How do scientists measure the strength of animal bonds?
9. What are the evolutionary benefits of long-term partnerships?
10. Why do some animals form strong bonds?

Extension / Research

1. Research the role of oxytocin in human bonding.
2. What are the evolutionary benefits of long-term partnerships?
3. Why do some animals form strong bonds?
4. Find out how scientists study animal behavior.
5. How do scientists measure the strength of animal bonds?

Love and Pair Bonding in the Animal Kingdom



Many people think of love as something only humans feel. However, scientists have discovered that strong bonds and long-term partnerships also exist in the animal world. Many animals form close relationships, work together, and raise their young as a team. These partnerships help animals survive and are an important part of life in nature.

Biologists often use the word **monogamy** or **pair bonding** to describe animals that stay with one partner for a long time. This can last for one breeding season or even for life. In these partnerships, both parents usually help care for their offspring, making it more likely that the young will survive.

Birds and Pair Bonds
Birds are the animals most often known for forming strong pair bonds. About **90% of bird species** are socially monogamous. This means a male and female bird stay together during the breeding season and share the work of raising chicks.



Bird pairs often build nests together, protect their eggs, and take turns feeding their young. Some birds even return to the same partner year after year. **Bald eagles, swans, and emperor penguins** are well-known examples. Emperor penguins take turns caring for their egg, with one parent keeping it warm while the other searches for food.

This teamwork allows bird parents to protect their young from predators and provide enough food, increasing the chances that the chicks will survive.

Wolves, Coyotes, and Other Canids
Among mammals, lifelong partnerships are rare. Only about **3-5% of mammals** are monogamous. However, animals in the dog family, like wolves and coyotes, are an important exception. They form strong bonds and work together to raise their pups.

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Article with
Comprehension
Questions

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Print & Digital

PDF



Your Reading

Love and Pair Bonding in the Animal Kingdom



Many people think of love as something only humans feel. However, scientists have found strong bonds and long-term partnerships also exist in the animal world. Many animals form relationships, work together, and raise their young as a team. These partnerships are an important part of life in nature.

Biologists often use the word **monogamy** or **pair bonding** to describe animals that stay with one partner for a long time. This can last for one breeding season or even for life. In many cases, both parents usually help care for their offspring, making it more likely that the young will survive.

Birds and Pair Bonds

Birds are the animals most often known for forming strong pair bonds. About 90% of bird species are socially monogamous. This means a male and female bird stay together during the breeding season and share the work of raising chicks.



Bird pairs often build nests together, protect them, and take turns feeding their young. Some birds, like **bald eagles** and **penguins**, are well-known examples. Emperor penguins are especially famous for their devotion, with one parent taking turns caring for their egg, while the other searches for food.

This teamwork allows bird parents to protect their young from predators and greatly increases the chances that the chicks will survive.

Wolves, Coyotes, and Other Canids

Among mammals, lifelong partnerships are rare. Only about 3–5% of mammal species are monogamous. However, animals in the dog family, called **canids**, are an important exception.

Wolves, coyotes, jackals, and African wild dogs often mate for life. In a wolf pack, the male and female breed. They stay together year after year and raise their pups as a team.

The mother nurses and protects the pups, while the father hunts and brings food back to the den. Older siblings may also help care for the new pups.

This cooperation keeps the pack strong and helps more young animals survive to adulthood.

Prairie Voles: Small Animals with Strong Bonds

One of the most famous examples of animal bonding comes from a small rodent called the **prairie vole**. Prairie voles form lifelong partnerships and spend much of their time together. Both parents share a nest, raise their pups, and protect their territory.

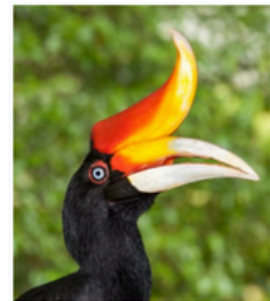


Scientists have studied prairie voles closely and found that the hormone **oxytocin** plays a key role in their bonding. Oxytocin is sometimes called the “love hormone.” When oxytocin is blocked, prairie voles do not form strong bonds.

In experiments, prairie voles choose to spend more time with their partner than with a stranger. If separated from their mate, they may become quiet or inactive, showing signs of sadness.

Hornbills: Trust and Teamwork

Hornbills are large tropical birds with one of the most dramatic examples of partnership. They usually mate for life. When they are ready to have chicks, the female seals herself inside a hollow tree using mud and droppings, leaving only a small opening.



For several months, the female cannot leave the nest. She depends completely on the male to bring her food. He feeds both the female and the chicks through the small opening. When the chicks grow up, the female breaks out, and both parents care for the young.

This behavior shows extreme trust and teamwork. If the male did not bring food, the family would not survive.

Animal Behavior and “Love”

Many animal partnerships show behaviors similar to human ideas of love, such as loyalty, devotion, and care for family. Animals and humans share some of the same brain chemicals, including **dopamine**, and **vasopressin**, which help create feelings of attachment.

From an evolutionary point of view, pair bonding often helps animals succeed. Two parents working together can protect offspring, find food, and defend territory more effectively than one parent alone. Some animals even show signs of grief when a partner is lost. Coyotes may howl for days when a partner dies. Prairie voles may stop eating or become inactive. These behaviors suggest that animals can form strong emotional bonds.

Why Animal Bonds Matter

Studying animal relationships helps scientists understand how cooperation and attachment evolved. It also helps researchers learn more about human relationships by studying shared biological systems. Whether it is birds building nests, wolves raising pups, or voles staying close to their partner, these examples show that bonding and teamwork are powerful forces in nature.



Comprehension Questions

1. What does monogamy mean in animals?
2. What percentage of bird species are socially monogamous?
3. Name one bird species that often stays with the same mate.
4. Why are wolves and coyotes often monogamous?
5. How do wolf parents work together to raise pups?
6. What makes prairie voles unusual compared to most mammals?
7. Which hormone helps prairie voles form strong bonds?
8. How do hornbill parents raise their chicks?
9. What behaviors suggest animals can feel grief?
10. Why do pair bonds help animals survive?

Extension / Research Questions

1. Research another animal that mates for life. Describe its behavior.
2. What role does oxytocin play in human relationships?
3. Why might monogamy be more common in birds than mammals?
4. Find an example of cooperative parenting in another animal group.
5. How can studying animal bonding help scientists understand humans?

Answer Key

1. Monogamy means staying with one partner for a long time.

2. About 90% of bird species are socially monogamous.

3. Examples include bald eagles, swans, or emperor penguins.

4. They often monogamous.

5. They work together to help raise pups more successfully.

6. They work together to raise pups.

7. Oxytocin helps them form strong bonds.

8. They protect them, while the father hunts and brings food.

9. This is unusual compared to most mammals.

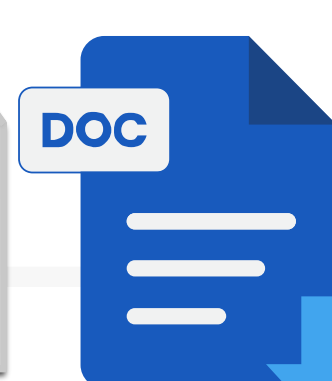
10. Both parents care for the young.

11. Prairie voles form strong bonds.

12. They raise their chicks.

Answer Key Included Office, Google, and PDF Versions

Understand shared brain chemicals and attachment behaviors.

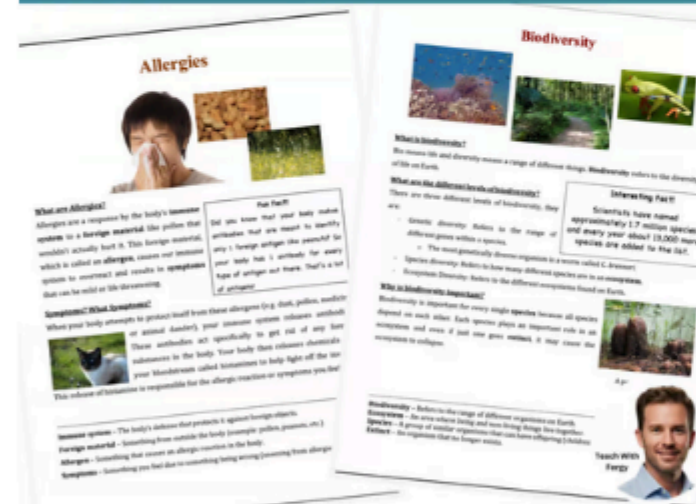


Comprehension and Extension Questions

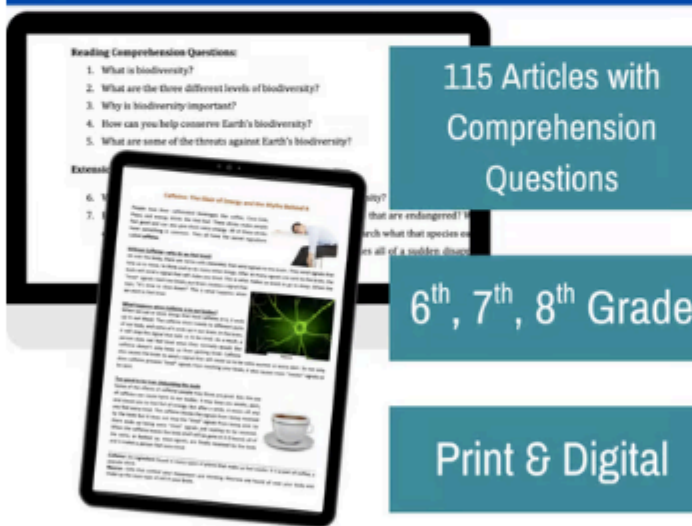
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115 Articles with
Comprehension
Questions

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Print & Digital



★★★★★ Extremely satisfied - So many comprehensive readings for all science fields. PDF and DOCX versions included so they can be edited if needed. Each one includes short answer questions at the end, the first set are easy to find the answers to in the readings, the second set require a bit more critical thinking. Includes an answer key. Great to use to fill in time or for sub plans.

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