

Wild and Weird Record Breakers

Literacy Level 25 • Maths Level 2–3 • Geometry and Measurement

Wise Up!



Inquiry Learning
for Years 5 and 6

Inquire to Learn!

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There are many ways in which *Wild and Weird Record Breakers* can be used as a base for Inquiry Learning. This is just one suggestion.

Literacy Achievement Objective:

Show an increasing understanding of how language features are used for effect within texts.

Specific Literacy Learning Outcome:

Recognize alliteration.

Numeracy Achievement Objective:

Use linear scales and whole numbers of metric units for length and weight.

Specific Numeracy Learning Outcomes:

Understand the concept of measurement.

Solve measurement problem.

Additional Achievement Objectives –

Science: Living World

Ecology: Recognize that living things are suited to their particular habitat. (Level 2)

Evolution: Recognize that some living things from the past are now extinct. (Level 2)

Specific Science Outcome:

As a result of research on the Haast's eagle, recognize the effect on living things of changes to their habitat.

Session 1: Using the Big Book, share-read *Wild and Weird Record Breakers*, stopping at natural points for discussion. Draw on the students' prior knowledge of "extreme" animals.

Session 2: Using the Big Book, work through the Literacy Focus questions. Guide the students towards the Specific Literacy Learning Outcome.

Literacy Focus:

1. *Recall:* Ask: Why is it hard to decide whether the Etruscan shrew or the bumblebee bat is smaller? [It depends on whether you measure weight or length: the shrew is lighter but longer. (page 2)]
2. *Language Features:* Ask: Do you notice anything interesting about some of the chapter headings? [Answers will vary, but hopefully will include reference to alliteration. Could discuss reasons why the author may have used alliteration: to make words flow more easily; to create rhythm and mood.]
3. *Vocabulary:* Ask: On page 15, how does the context help you work out the meaning of *aggressive*? [The text states that the taipan is the world's most venomous snake, but these snakes avoid people and there is no record of a death from a taipan bite. That suggests they are unwilling to bite people.]

Session 3: Using the Small Books, have the students reread *Wild and Weird Record Breakers*. Model answering the Wise Up! on page 5. In their maths groups, have the students answer the Wise Up! questions on pages 8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, and 22. Help individual groups as necessary. Set the homework task of weighing and measuring a pet, where possible, so that the students can later complete the challenge on page 24.

Session 4: Have the students complete the challenge on page 24.

Inquiry Learning Extension:

Have the students complete the challenge on page 6. They could make posters containing their findings.

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