

**Year 6 Reading. Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020. LO: Mixed Comprehension.**

Look Closer 

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**ANIMAL NEWS**

# SHARK SECRETS

A DETAILED study of great white sharks has found they spend a lot more time feeding along the seabed than previously thought.

The study into their diet was done by a team at the Charles Perkins Centre and School of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Sydney. They studied the predators off the east coast of Australia and found the remains of fish that live on the bottom of the ocean in the stomachs of more than 40 young sharks. This evidence supports data from tagged great white sharks that shows they spend a lot of time many metres below the surface of the ocean.

Lead author Richard Grainger said: "The stereotype of a shark's dorsal fin above the surface as it hunts is probably not a very accurate picture."

The full study was printed in the journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*.



1



# CHOOKS IN CHARGE

3

A VILLAGE in New Zealand has been taken over by chickens! People in Titirangi in west Auckland got a shock when they came out of lockdown to find chickens were running wild. Before the pandemic, authorities had already caught around 230 feral chickens. But it's thought someone had been leaving chicken feed out, so the chooks have returned and seized the streets!



Getty



# OFF THE MENU

PANGOLIN scales are no longer officially listed as an ingredient to be used for traditional Chinese medicine.

2

The news was reported in medical journals in China this week. It comes as China raised the protection level for pangolins to the highest in the country. Both changes are good news for pangolins, which are the most-trafficked animal species in the world. They've come very close to extinction due to the illegal wildlife trade. As many as 200,000 are consumed each year for their scales and meat.

# DINO-CROC!

SCIENTISTS believe that an ancient species of crocodile that lived around 120 million years ago walked on its two back legs – just like a dinosaur!

4

The discovery comes after researchers analysed huge fossilised footprints found in South Korea. The study, which appeared in the journal *Scientific Reports*, revealed that the footprints belonged to what scientists think is a new species of crocodylomorpha, the ancestors to modern-day crocodiles and alligators.

They think these super-crocs were more than three metres in length and moved in the same way as many two-legged dinosaurs, such as the T rex. No fossils of the croc's bones have been found yet, but researchers have named it *Batrachopus grandis*.



An artist's impression of how the ancient crocs might have looked

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GLOSSARY	
<b>consumed</b> – Ate/used/bought	<b>illegal</b> – Not within the law
<b>extinction</b> – Died out	<b>predator</b> – An animal that hunts other animals
<b>feral</b> – Living in the wild after escaping from captivity or living as a domesticated animal	<b>stereotype</b> – A widely-held but over-simplified image or idea of something
<b>journal</b> – A type of magazine that publishes academic reports, news, findings, ideas and information.	<b>trafficked</b> – illegally bought and sold

■ **Look at all the articles.**

1. Complete the sentences by filling in the missing animal.

- A **Batrachopus grandis** is believed to be an ancient species of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A **chook** is another name for a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A **great white** is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a **small mammal** covered in scales.

■ **Look at the article 'Off the menu'.**

2. Pangolins are the most trafficked – illegally traded – animals in the world.

Identify the facts:

- Approximately, how many pangolins are thought to be illegally sold each year?
- Which parts of their body are they bought for?

3a. What **two changes** have been made in China that are 'good news' for pangolins?

3b. What **impact** do you think these changes could have on pangolins?

■ **Look at the article 'Shark secrets'.**

4. The study of great white sharks found that they spend more time feeding on the seabed than previously thought. What two pieces of evidence are there for this?

5. The lead scientist said: "The **stereotype** of a shark's fin above the surface as it hunts is probably not a very accurate picture." What do you think Richard Grainger means by this?

■ **Look at the article 'Dino-croc'!**

6. Find the facts.

<b>Evidence of this ancient creature that scientists studied:</b>	
<b>What scientists have worked out about how the crocodile moved from this evidence:</b>	
<b>When do scientists think these super-crocs lived on Earth:</b>	

7. Draw and label a diagram of a **Batrachopus grandis**, use evidence in the text.

■ **Look at the article 'Chooks in charge'.**

8. Imagine you are a resident of Titirangi. Describe the scene you are met with when you walk around the village the first time you leave your house after lockdown.

■ **Consider all the articles.**

9. A **journal** is a type of magazine that publishes academic reports, news, findings, ideas and information. Three of the news stories were reported in journals.

Match the **source of the story** to the *First News* article:

'Frontiers in marine science'	Dino-croc!
Medical journals in China	Off the menu
'Scientific reports'	Shark secrets

10a. Which of these four news articles do you think is most interesting?

Shark secrets    
  Off the menu    
  Dino-croc!    
  Chooks in charge

Explain why.

10b. Who would be a useful person to interview to find out more about this particular news story?

10c. Write three questions you would like to ask them to find out information.