Name: _____ Date: _____

The Archerfish Spits at Its Supper

Circle group

Most fish catch food in the water. The archerfish is different. It hunts bugs that sit on leaves above a stream.

The fish swims just under the top of the water and looks up. When it sees a beetle, it squeezes its mouth and gills. A thin jet of water shoots out. It is like a squirt gun.

The jet hits the bug. The bug falls into the water. The fish eats it fast.

Aiming is hard. Light bends when it goes from water into air. So the bug is not quite where it looks. Young archerfish miss a lot. With practice, they get good.

The archerfish lives in streams and shallow water near coasts in parts of Asia and Australia. Its water gun helps it find food that other fish cannot reach.

Questions

1. What does the archerfish hunt?

_____

_____

2. How does the archerfish make a jet of water?

_____

_____

3. What happens when the jet hits a bug?

_____

_____

4. Why is aiming hard for the archerfish?

_____

_____

5. Where does the archerfish live?

_____

_____

6. Why do young archerfish miss a lot?

_____

_____

Words to know

jet: a fast, thin stream of liquid

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Archerfish Spits at Its Supper

Triangle group

Most fish catch their food in the water. The archerfish does something different. It hunts insects that sit on leaves and twigs above the surface of a stream.

The archerfish swims just under the surface and looks up. When it spots a beetle or a spider, it presses its tongue against a groove in the roof of its mouth. Then it squeezes its gills shut. A thin jet of water shoots out of its mouth like a tiny stream from a squirt gun.

The jet hits the insect and knocks it into the water. Before it can paddle away, the fish gobbles it up.

Aiming is tricky. Light bends when it passes from water into air, so an insect is not exactly where it seems to be. Young archerfish often miss. With practice, they learn to hit their targets very well. Some can even hit a target that is a long way above them.

The archerfish lives in streams and shallow waters near coasts in parts of Asia and Australia. Its water gun lets it find food that no other fish can reach.

Questions

1. What kind of food does the archerfish hunt?

_____

_____

2. How does the archerfish make a jet of water?

_____

_____

3. What happens when the jet of water hits an insect?

_____

_____

4. Why is aiming tricky for the archerfish?

_____

_____

5. Where does the archerfish live?

_____

_____

6. Why do young archerfish miss more often than older ones?

_____

_____

Words to know

surface: the top layer of the water
groove: a long, narrow dent or channel
jet: a fast, thin stream of liquid
gobbles: eats something quickly
target: the thing you are trying to hit

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Archerfish Spits at Its Supper

Square group

Most fish capture their food beneath the surface of the water, but the archerfish has developed a remarkably different method. It hunts insects that rest on leaves and twigs hanging over a stream.

Swimming just below the surface, the archerfish gazes upward. When it spots a beetle or a spider, it presses its tongue against a groove in the roof of its mouth and then squeezes its gills shut. A thin, powerful jet of water shoots from its mouth, much like a stream from a squirt gun.

The jet strikes the insect and knocks it into the water, and before the stunned creature can paddle away, the fish swallows it. Aiming, however, is a difficult skill. Because light bends as it passes from water into air, an insect is never exactly where it appears to be. Young archerfish frequently miss, but with practice they learn to strike their targets with great accuracy, even when the target is a long way overhead.

The archerfish lives in streams and shallow coastal waters in parts of Asia and Australia, where its water gun allows it to reach food that no other fish can.

Questions

1. What kind of food does the archerfish hunt?

_____

_____

2. How does the archerfish make its jet of water?

_____

_____

3. What happens to an insect struck by the jet?

_____

_____

4. Why is aiming so difficult?

_____

_____

5. Where does the archerfish live?

_____

_____

6. Why do young archerfish miss more often than older ones?

_____

_____

Words to know

surface: the top layer of the water
groove: a long, narrow dent or channel
jet: a fast, thin stream of liquid
target: the thing you are trying to hit

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Archerfish Spits at Its Supper

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Archerfish Spits at Its Supper

Easier · 133 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2

1. Bugs that sit on leaves above the water.
2. It squeezes its mouth and gills.
3. The bug falls into the water and the fish eats it.
4. Light bends from water into air, so the bug is not where it looks.
5. In streams and shallow water near coasts in Asia and Australia.
6. They are still learning and get better with practice.

Triangle: The Archerfish Spits at Its Supper

This passage · 183 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. Insects that sit on leaves and twigs above the water.
2. It presses its tongue against a groove in its mouth and squeezes its gills shut.
3. The insect is knocked into the water and the fish eats it.
4. Light bends when it passes from water into air, so the insect is not exactly where it seems to be.
5. In streams and shallow waters near coasts in parts of Asia and Australia.
6. They are still learning. The passage says they get better with practice.

Square: The Archerfish Spits at Its Supper

Harder · 190 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.7

1. Insects that rest on leaves and twigs above the water.
2. It presses its tongue against a groove in its mouth and squeezes its gills shut.
3. It is knocked into the water and the fish swallows it.
4. Light bends from water into air, so an insect is never exactly where it appears to be.
5. In streams and shallow coastal waters in parts of Asia and Australia.
6. They are still learning, and the passage says accuracy comes with practice.