Name: _____ Date: _____

The Pistol Shrimp and Its Watchful Goby

Circle group

On the sandy floor of a warm sea lives a small animal called a pistol shrimp. It is good at digging, but it can hardly see. Luckily, it has a partner.

The partner is a little fish called a goby. The shrimp digs a burrow in the sand, and the goby shares it. The shrimp keeps the burrow neat. The goby has sharp eyes. It keeps watch.

The two stay in touch. The shrimp rests a feeler on the fish. If the goby sees danger, it flicks its tail. The shrimp feels it and dashes into the burrow. The goby follows.

The pistol shrimp has a big claw. It snaps the claw shut so fast that it makes a bubble. The bubble pops with a loud bang. The bang can stun tiny animals, so the shrimp can catch food.

The shrimp builds the home. The goby guards it.

Questions

1. What problem does the pistol shrimp have?

_____

_____

2. What does the goby do for the shrimp?

_____

_____

3. What does the shrimp do for the goby?

_____

_____

4. How does the goby warn the shrimp?

_____

_____

5. How does the shrimp make a loud bang?

_____

_____

6. Why would the shrimp be in trouble without the goby?

_____

_____

Words to know

burrow: a hole or tunnel an animal digs to live in
goby: a small fish that often lives on the sea floor
feeler: a thin body part an animal uses to touch things
stun: to make an animal dizzy or unable to move for a moment

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 Pistol Shrimp and Its Watchful Goby

Triangle group

On the sandy floor of a warm sea, a small animal named the pistol shrimp has a problem. It is good at digging, but it can barely see. Luckily, it has found a partner.

The partner is a little fish called a goby. The shrimp digs a burrow in the sand, and the goby shares it. The shrimp keeps the burrow tidy, pushing out sand and pebbles. The goby has sharp eyes, and it keeps watch.

The two stay in touch in a clever way. The shrimp rests one feeler on the fish. If the goby sees danger, it flicks its tail. The shrimp feels the flick and dashes into the burrow, with the goby right behind it.

The pistol shrimp gets its name from its big claw. It can snap that claw shut so fast that it makes a bubble of water, and the bubble pops with a loud bang. The sound can startle or stun tiny animals nearby, which makes it easy for the shrimp to catch food.

This is a good example of two different animals helping each other. The shrimp builds the home, and the goby guards it. Neither one could do as well alone.

Questions

1. What problem does the pistol shrimp have?

_____

_____

2. What does the goby do for the shrimp?

_____

_____

3. What does the shrimp do for the goby?

_____

_____

4. How does the goby warn the shrimp?

_____

_____

5. How does the pistol shrimp make a loud bang?

_____

_____

6. Why would the shrimp be in trouble without the goby?

_____

_____

Words to know

burrow: a hole or tunnel an animal digs to live in
goby: a small fish that often lives on the sea floor
feeler: a thin body part an animal uses to touch things
startle: to surprise someone so they jump or freeze
stun: to make an animal dizzy or unable to move for a moment

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 Pistol Shrimp and Its Watchful Goby

Square group

On the sandy floor of a warm sea, a small creature known as the pistol shrimp faces an unusual problem. It is an excellent digger, but its eyesight is extremely poor. Fortunately, it has found a reliable partner.

That partner is a little fish called a goby. The shrimp excavates a burrow in the sand, and the goby shares it. The shrimp keeps the burrow tidy by pushing out sand and pebbles, while the goby, with its sharp eyes, stands guard.

The pair communicates in a clever way. The shrimp rests one feeler against the fish, and if the goby notices danger, it flicks its tail. The shrimp feels the movement and dashes into the burrow, with the goby right behind it.

The pistol shrimp is named for its enormous claw, which it can snap shut so quickly that it creates a bubble of water. The bubble pops with a loud bang that can startle or stun tiny animals nearby, which makes it easy for the shrimp to catch a meal.

The partnership is a fine example of two different animals helping each other. The shrimp builds the home and the goby guards it, and neither could do nearly as well alone.

Questions

1. What problem does the pistol shrimp have?

_____

_____

2. What does the goby do for the shrimp?

_____

_____

3. What does the shrimp do for the goby?

_____

_____

4. How does the goby warn the shrimp?

_____

_____

5. How does the pistol shrimp create a loud bang?

_____

_____

6. Why would the shrimp be at risk without the goby?

_____

_____

Words to know

burrow: a hole or tunnel an animal digs to live in
goby: a small fish that often lives on the sea floor
feeler: a thin body part an animal uses to touch things
startle: to surprise someone so they jump or freeze
stun: to make an animal dizzy or unable to move for a moment

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 Pistol Shrimp and Its Watchful Goby

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

Circle: The Pistol Shrimp and Its Watchful Goby

Easier · 148 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. It is good at digging but can hardly see.
2. It keeps watch for danger.
3. It digs and keeps the burrow neat.
4. It flicks its tail.
5. It snaps its big claw shut to make a bubble that pops.
6. It cannot see well, so it would not know when danger was near.

Triangle: The Pistol Shrimp and Its Watchful Goby

This passage · 199 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. It is good at digging but can barely see.
2. It keeps watch and warns the shrimp of danger.
3. It digs and keeps up the burrow that they share.
4. It flicks its tail, and the shrimp feels it with a feeler.
5. It snaps its big claw shut so fast that it makes a bubble that pops.
6. The shrimp cannot see well, so it would not know when danger was near.

Square: The Pistol Shrimp and Its Watchful Goby

Harder · 202 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.1

1. It is an excellent digger but its eyesight is extremely poor.
2. It stands guard and warns the shrimp of danger.
3. It digs and tidies the burrow that the two share.
4. It flicks its tail, and the shrimp feels it through a feeler.
5. It snaps its enormous claw shut so quickly that it creates a bubble that pops.
6. Its eyesight is poor, so it could not tell when danger was close.