

Chirp May 2020 Teacher/Parent Resources



Chirp

Amazing Animal Hedgehogs

Hedgehog Fun Facts

- Hedgehogs are about the same size as rats.
- They eat insects, snails, mice, and small reptiles.
- They live in savannas, grasslands, forests, and meadows throughout Africa, Europe, and Asia.

When they're scared, hedgehogs curl into a ball. Their sharp quills stick out and protect them from predators.



Illustration: Royalty-free (Dreamstime)

Follow-up Activity:

Armadillos and pangolins can also curl into balls for protection. Find pictures of those animals online and talk about how they're similar to and different from hedgehogs.

Classroom Connections: Science: life science, animals





Look and Learn

A Dog at Work

This month, *Chirp* readers meet Kadence, an autism assistance dog guide trained to keep her friend Bella safe, day and night. Before you read the article, talk about your perceptions and knowledge about dog guides. Have you seen dog guides at work or in training? Where were they? What were they doing?

Then fill in a K-W-L chart together. This chart explores what you know about dog guides, what you want to know about them, and what you've learned. It offers a great opportunity to use the magazine article as a starting point of inquiry and add some follow-up research.

KWL Chart — All About Dog Guides

What We Know	What We Want to Learn	What We Learned





Look and Learn A Dog at Work

Tips: Talk about different reasons people use dog guides. Then discuss how you should behave around these working dogs. How are dog guides different from pet dogs? For more info, click on: <https://www.dogguides.com/index.html>

Classroom Connections:

Language Arts: understanding informational text

Character Education: empathy, community, critical thinking

Social-Emotional Learning





Let's Read The Backyard Queen

The story in this month's *Chirp* is a great example of a character exploring her own identity. Read the story aloud or listen to it at owlkids.com/audio. Then use the prompts below to guide a discussion to assess comprehension and critical thinking.

Discussion Prompts

1. What is the title of the story? Based on the title, what do you think the story will be about?
2. Describe Bruiser's kingdom. In what ways is Bruiser the ruler of her own kingdom?
3. Why was Bruiser uneasy about going to the dog park? How did she handle her feelings? What would you have done in her place?
4. How does Bruiser see herself? How do other dogs and their owners see her?
5. What is the yellow monster? What does Bruiser do when she sees it?
6. What happens at the end of the story?
7. What do you think Bruiser learned about herself in the story? Have you ever learned anything new about yourself?
8. What do you think Bruiser will do next time birds and squirrels enter her kingdom?





Let's Read

The Backyard Queen

Tip: Ask questions that encourage text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections to help make meaning from the story.

Follow-up Activity

Draw a character or scene from the story. Include a few words or a sentence to describe the drawing and why it's important in the story.

Classroom Connections:

Language Arts: reading comprehension, making inferences/interpreting texts, understanding story elements, character development

Social-Emotional Learning

