

## Amazing Animals and Plants

**Angler Fish**—fish; many different kinds in tropical and temperate seas around the world; has wormlike flap of skin on its first dorsal fin; uses flap to lure small fish close enough to catch for food

**Aye-aye**—mammal; rain forests of Madagascar; bizarre-looking mammal that eats insects and has a similar role to woodpeckers of temperate forests

**Axolotl**—amphibian; lakes in Mexico; usually reproduces while still in its larval state

**Basilisk Lizard**—reptile; rain forests of Latin America; can run across water on its hind legs

**Bolas Spider**—spider; southeastern United States; eats only male moths, which it catches on the end of a line of silk that it swings through the air

**Bottle Tree**—plant; dry forest of Australia; swollen trunks are self-contained reservoirs that store water for long, dry spells

**Bromeliad**—plant; spiky leaves channel water into the center of the plant, which may hold as much as 18 pints (8.5 liters); captures falling leaves, which rot, thus providing nutrients the bromeliad cannot retrieve from the soil; also provides a habitat for a number of different animals

**Brown Bee Orchid** (genus *Ophrys*)—plant; resembles bee that attracts males of certain bee species who try (unsuccessfully) to mate with the flower; pollen sticks to the bee and is transferred to another flower

**Cleaner Wrasse**—fish; coral reefs; feeds on parasites that live on larger fish and sets up “cleaning stations” to remove those parasites

**European Water Spider**—spider; lakes and ponds in Europe; creates an underwater, air-filled space to rest; can swim under water with an air bubble attached to its abdomen

**Fringe-lipped Bat**—mammal; forests in Latin America; feeds mostly on frogs it finds by detecting and recognizing the mating calls of male frogs

**Golden Plover**—bird; winters in South America, breeds in the Arctic; adult birds fly south for winter before young can fly; young make their first journey from the Arctic to Argentina alone

**Hoatzin**—bird; South America; bizarre-looking bird whose young can climb through trees using hook-like claws on their wings

**Honey Guide**—bird; forests of Africa; guides Pygmies to honeybee nests; Pygmies break open nests and collect honey; bird feeds on the beeswax

**Hooded Seal**—mammal; in water and along coasts mostly in the North Atlantic; in displays of aggression, male may inflate a hood on his snout or force his nasal membrane through either one of his nostrils, creating a red “balloon”

**Jack-o-Lantern Mushroom**—fungus; forests of North America; is bright orange like a pumpkin with gills underneath that glow in the dark; poisonous

**Kangaroo Rat**—mammal; deserts of North America; gets all the water it needs to survive from the seeds it eats

**Leaf-cutter Ant**—insect; rain forests of Latin America; ants grow their own food in gardens in their underground nests and collect leaves and other material to use as compost

**Matamata**—reptile; South America; bizarre-looking turtle that’s perfectly camouflaged in river bottoms where it lives

**Monarch Butterfly**—insect; mostly breeds in eastern North America and winters in Mexico and Central America; adults migrate north, lay their eggs, and die; then, at the end of the summer—and three or four generations later—adults of the last brood migrate south for the winter—to the same areas their “great-great-grandparents” came from

**Nudibranch**—mollusk; can transfer the stinging cells of its prey to its own skin and then use them to protect itself from predators

**Pitcher Plant**—plant; bogs and wetlands in North America; traps insects in long tube and then digests them

**Platypus**—mammal-monotreme; streams, rivers, and lakes in Australia; bizarre-looking mammal that lays eggs

**Pogonophoran**—tube worm; floor of deep oceans; has no mouth, stomach, or gut, but absorbs nutrients directly from the water

**Poison Dart Frog**—amphibian; rain forests of Latin America; bright skin colors warn predators the frogs are poisonous

**Starnose Mole**—mammal; wet ground near lakes and streams in eastern North America; its bizarre-looking nose is divided into many fleshy tentacles

**Suriname Toad**—amphibian; lakes and ponds in South America; eggs develop in spongy skin on back and hatch as tiny toads after about three months

**Thorny Devil**—reptile; deserts of Australia; the scales on its skin form a network of canals; when dew gets on its skin, it travels through these canals directly to the animal’s mouth

**Welwitschia**—plant; Namib Desert in southwestern Africa; has only two leaves and may live to be more than 1,000 years old

