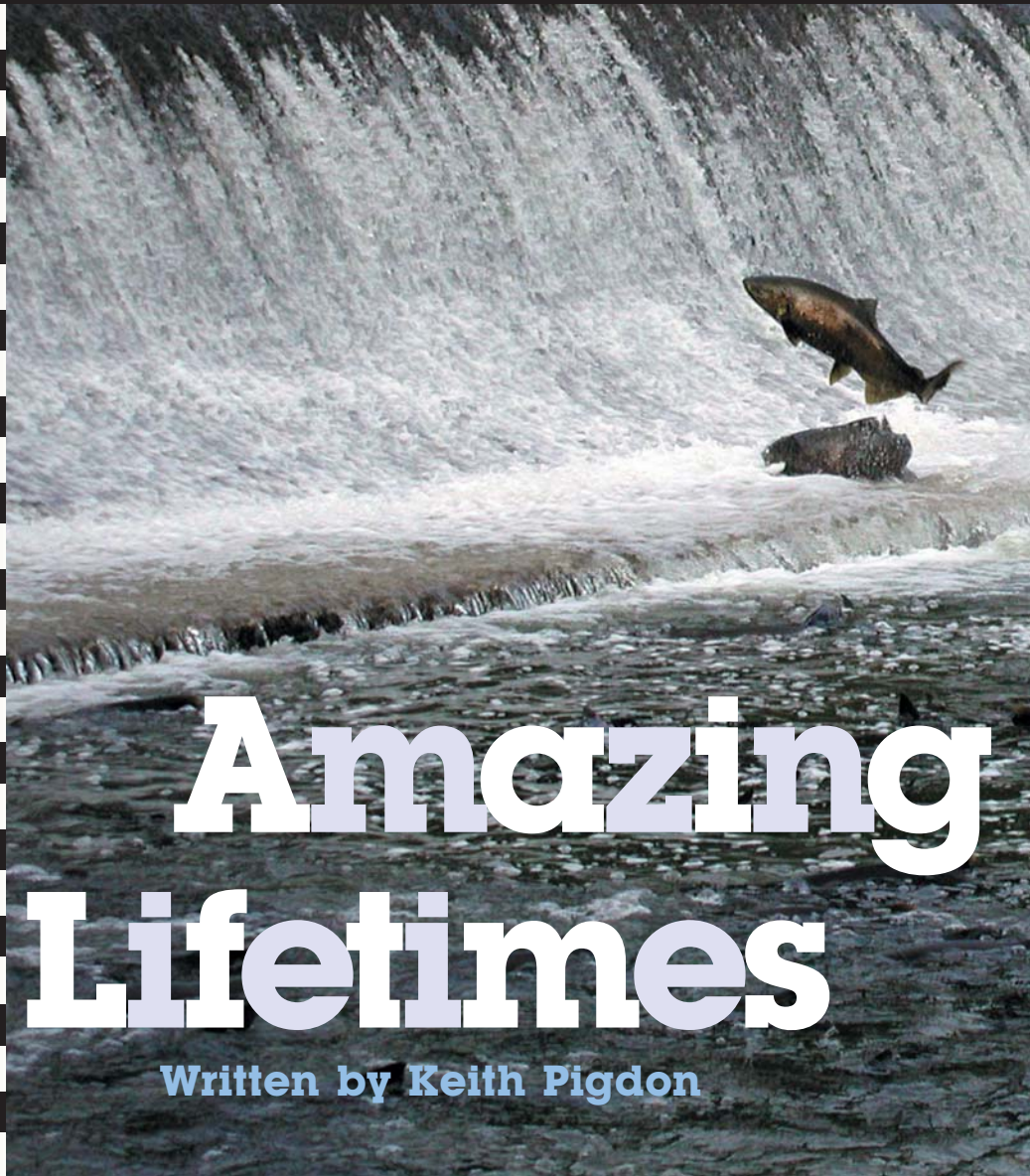




**Teacher Edition**

**AlphaWorld**



# Amazing Lifetimes

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## How to use this book

The AlphaWorld teacher editions support teachers as they guide children's reading and thinking during one or more guided reading sessions. Teachers can observe children as they read and choose from the given suggestions to suit individual needs.

### Before reading

#### Setting the context, front cover and title page:

The suggestions help teachers to set the scene and prepare children for reading the book. Prompts help to determine children's prior knowledge. Where necessary, background information is provided. Teachers are encouraged to check that children understand the vocabulary listed and to discuss the meanings and/or the structures of these words. Previous experiences with similar text types may also be discussed.

### During reading

#### Predict, Read, Reflect:

Questions encourage children to engage with the text by making predictions. The children then read a section of the text and reflect on what they have read. The focus is on the content, language and text features of the book.

#### Observe and support:

Prompts help teachers to focus on the strategies children use as they read. Teachers can then select from and adapt the suggestions according to the needs of the individual child. The suggestions aim to develop a child's reading abilities. Interruptions to the child's reading should be minimal.

### After reading

#### A selection of reading and writing activities:

The last pages of the teacher edition provide follow-up activities and include the assessment focus.

## Selected text features

- Bold banner headings on different parts of the page
- Explaining the topic by various categories
- Index

## Vocabulary

backbones, bamboo, barramundi, California, cycad, kilograms, kilometres, larva, lifetimes, litres, metres, millimetres, mosquitoes, pupa, river mouths, salmon, semi-trailers, sequoia trees, tonnes, wet season

## Setting the context

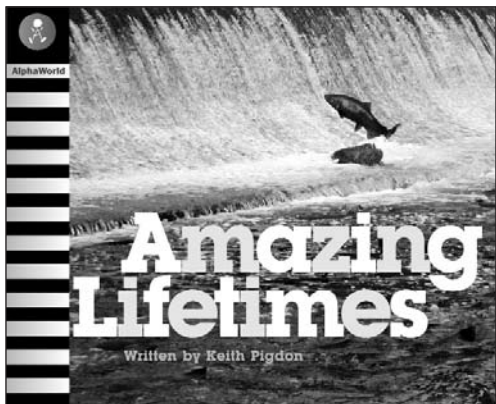
*How have you changed as you have grown up?*

*What can you do now that you couldn't do before?*

*Does everything grow in the same way?*

## Background information

This book describes some of the extremes of plant and animal lifetimes. Some species grow incredibly quickly, others grow very slowly. Some species have very short lives, others live for an amazingly long time. Some species have lifecycles that see them change their sex before they breed. Others travel on amazing journeys to reach their breeding places.



## Front cover

Show the front cover.

*This book is called Amazing Lifetimes.*

*What does 'amazing' mean?*

*What can you see on the front cover? Does it help you to guess what this book will be about?*

## Title page

Turn to the title page.

Read the title and author's name together.

*What can you see? How will it be amazing?*

## **Predict**

*This is the contents page. What do the contents tell us? Let's read through it together to see what is in this book?*

Discuss any words or concepts that the children are unsure about.

Turn to page 4.

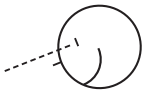
*This is the introduction. It says that all living things grow and change during their lifetimes. Do all living things grow and change in the same way?*

## **Read** to the end of page 4.

## **Reflect**

*What section are you looking forward to reading? Why?*

*After reading the introduction, what do you think this book will be about?*



## **Observe and support**

Can the children use their knowledge of letter-sound relationships to support their reading?

If the child is having difficulty, you could say:

*What letter does that word start with? What sound does that make?*

*Can you think of a word that starts with 'l' that would fit there?*



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Changing from male to female 18  
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## Introduction

Some living things have amazing lifetimes.

Some grow very slowly and some grow very fast. Some have long lifetimes and others live for a very short time. And during their lifetimes, some living things change in amazing ways.



## **Predict**

*This section is about growing fast. Blue whales grow faster than any other animal.*

*Look at the photo of the whale and her calf. How heavy do you think the calf is when it is born?*

*Turn to page 8.*

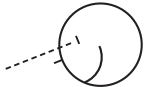
*Bamboo is the fastest-growing plant. Some of the young bamboo plants can grow almost one metre in 24 hours. How long is one metre? How long is 24 hours? If it can grow that much in one day, how high do you think it will be after two months?*

## **Read** to the end of page 9.

## **Reflect**

*How heavy and long is the blue whale calf at seven months? What else is amazing about them?*

*How tall is 18 metres? Did the bamboo grow as much as you thought?*



## **Observe and support**

*Can the child identify language of comparison?*

*How much is 2.2 tonnes? How tall is 18 metres?*

*Does comparing things to objects you know help you understand how big or heavy things are? How?*

fast

### Growing fast

Blue whales grow faster than any other animal.

A blue whale calf weighs about 2.2 tonnes when it is born. That is as much as two cars. The calf drinks about 380 litres of its mother's milk every day and gets almost four kilograms heavier every hour.

By the time it is seven months old, the calf weighs as much as 20 cars and is about 16 metres long.



fast

Bamboo is the fastest-growing plant.

The giant timber bamboo is the fastest-growing bamboo. Some of these young bamboo plants can grow almost one metre in 24 hours. After two months, they can reach a height of 18 metres. That is as tall as a three-storey building.



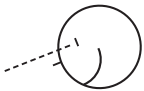
● **Predict**

*A plant called the cycad is the slowest-growing plant in the world. Look at the photos of them. What do they look like? How tall do you think they are?*

● **Read** to the end of page 10.

● **Reflect**

*How much do cycads grow in one year? How long is two millimetres? What else is special about cycads?*



**Observe and support**

Can the child understand the literal meaning of the text?

*Where do cycads grow? Where did you find that out?*





### **Growing slowly**


A plant called the cycad is the slowest-growing plant in the world. Cycad plants look like palm trees. They grow in places where the weather is warm and wet.

Some cycads are more than 1000 years old, but only two metres tall. This means that these cycads grow an average of only two millimetres a year.



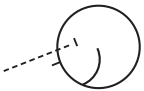
## **Predict**

*This section is about living for a short time. Some animals have very short lifetimes. One of these animals is the mosquito. They lay their eggs in water and when the mosquito larva hatches, it feeds and grows in the water. What do you think happens to it next?*

 **Read** to the end of page 12.

## **Reflect**

*How does a mosquito egg develop into an adult mosquito?  
How long does it take?*



## **Observe and support**

Does the child use a range of strategies to work out new vocabulary?

*How did you work out the word 'backbone'? Can you see any words you know in backbone?*

# short

12

## Living for a short time

Some animals have very short lifetimes. Most of these animals are insects or small creatures without backbones.

The mosquito is very busy during its short lifetime.

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in water. When a mosquito larva hatches from its egg, it feeds and grows in the water. The larva changes into a pupa. A short time later, an adult mosquito crawls from the pupa. Soon the adult lays eggs and dies.

All this can happen in one week!



11


## **Predict**

*This section is about living for a long time. Sea turtles live longer than most other ocean creatures. They can live for up to 100 years. Female turtles lay their eggs in sand. What do you think happens to these turtle eggs?*

Turn to page 16.

*The giant sequoia trees in California are among the oldest living things on earth. One of these trees is called the General Sherman Tree. How old do you think it is?*

*Look at the photos. What else do you think may be amazing about the General Sherman Tree?*

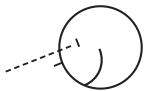
 **Read** to the end of page 16.

## **Reflect**

*What causes sea turtle's eggs to develop into female or male turtles?*

*What else is amazing about sea turtles?*

*Tell me some interesting facts about the General Sherman Tree.*



## **Observe and support**

Ask one child to read aloud to you while the others are reading silently.

Can the child read the text fluently?

*Try to make it sound as if you were talking to someone.*

# long

## Living for a long time

Sea turtles live longer than most other animals in the ocean. They can live for up to 100 years.

Female turtles lay their eggs in sand. When the sand is warm, female babies hatch from the eggs. When the sand is cooler, male babies hatch from the eggs. The baby turtles crawl to the water and swim out to sea.

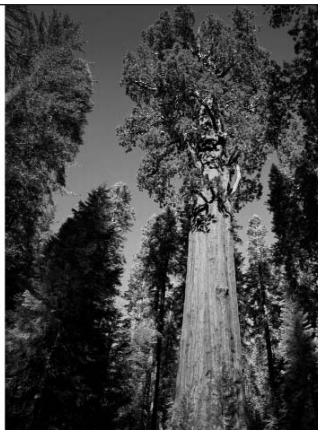
Female turtles come back to shore when they are ready to lay their eggs. Some turtles are more than 50 years old when they lay eggs for the first time.



# long

The giant sequoia trees in California are among the oldest living things on earth. One of these trees is called the General Sherman Tree. It has been alive for more than 2000 years.

The General Sherman Tree is also extremely tall and heavy. It is almost 84 metres high. It weighs as much as 125 semi-trailers and has more wood in it than any other tree in the world.




## **Predict**

*All barramundi are born as male fish. They live for the first three or four years of their lives in fresh water. What do you think happens when they swim to salty water?*

Turn to page 20.

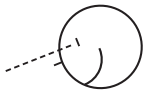
*Some kinds of salmon hatch in streams and rivers. As they grow they make their way to the ocean. What do you think happens when they are ready to lay eggs?*

 **Read** to the end of page 20.

## **Reflect**

*What happens to barramundi when they are about five years of age? Do they stay female?*

*Why have salmon been included in this book about amazing lifetimes? How are they amazing?*



## **Observe and support**

Can the child suggest ways to discover the meaning of unfamiliar words?

*Can you show me any words you had trouble with?*

*How did you work out what they mean?*



### **Changing from male to female**

All barramundi are born as male fish. They live in fresh water for the first three or four years of their lives, then swim to salty water.

When they are about five years old, the male fish change into females. The female barramundi lay eggs near river mouths at the start of the wet season. They stay female for the rest of their lives.

changing



### **Going home to breed**

Some kinds of salmon hatch in streams or rivers. As they grow, the salmon make their way to the ocean.

Before they lay eggs, salmon find their way back to the stream where they were born. Some salmon swim as far as 3200 kilometres up rivers, streams and even waterfalls to lay their eggs. The journey can take several months.

The salmon do not eat anything once they reach fresh water. They die after they have laid their eggs.



returning

● **Predict**

*This is the conclusion. What do you think it will say?*

*Turn to the index on page 24.*

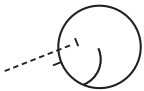
*Why do authors include an index?*

*What words should be in the index of this book?*

● **Read** to the end of page 24.

● **Reflect**

*Tell me in your own words what the conclusion said. Could any other information have been included? Why?*



**Observe and support**

Can the child explain how to use an index?

*Where will I find information about giant sequoia?*

*What will I read about on page 6?*

*Can you show me how this index works?*



# Conclusion

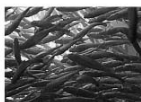
Some plants and animals grow and change in different and surprising ways.

They have amazing lifetimes.



# Index

- bamboo 9
- barramundi 18
- blue whale 6
- cycad 10
- giant sequoia 16
- mosquito 12
- salmon 20
- sea turtle 14



24

## After reading

### Being a meaning maker

Encourage the children to support their answers with evidence from the book as they discuss these questions:

*What is amazing about blue whales?*

*What is the fastest-growing plant?*

*What is the slowest?*

*What sorts of animals have very short lifetimes?*

*Which animal did you find the most surprising? Why?*

*Which plant did you think was the most amazing? Why?*

### Being a code breaker

Explore the following language features:

- Adjectives: faster, fastest, heavier, longest, oldest, shortest, slowest, tallest
- Words ending with the suffix 'est': fastest, longest, shortest, slowest, tallest
- Words used for measurement: kilograms, kilometres, litres, metres, millimetres, tonnes

### Being a text user

*What kind of book do you think this is?*

*Did you like reading this book?*


*Would you recommend this book to anyone else? If so, who?*


### Being a text critic


*What kind of details in the book helped you to picture these plants and animals most clearly?*

*Tell me some of them.*

## Responding to text

 The children could make a poster about one of the plants or animals in the book that explains why this living thing is amazing.

 Ask the children to make visual models of some of the amazing features of these plants and animals. For example, use a paper strip 18 metres long to show how tall bamboo are after two months. These visual models could be displayed with 'Did you know?' statements.

 Investigate adjectives of comparison. Compare children's features in the group. For example, Sue's hair is longer than Paul's. Terry is taller than Joe. Jane's hands are bigger than Emma's. Ask the children to look through the book and list words that are used to compare things.

## Writing links

Re-read and discuss the information about mosquitoes on page 12. Model the construction of a diagram about a mosquito's lifetime using the information found in the text.

The children could complete a learning journal entry that tells an amazing fact they now know from reading the book.  
*After reading 'Amazing Lifetimes' I discovered...*

## Possible assessment focus

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Can the children:

- identify language of comparison?
- use adjectives of comparison?
- understand scientific language?



whole text activity



sentence activity



word activity

# Amazing Lifetimes

**Topic:** Animal Kingdom/Plants

**Curriculum link:** Natural Science

**Text type:** Explanation

**Reading level:** 21

**Word count:** 605

**Vocabulary:** backbones, bamboo, barramundi, California, cycad, kilograms, kilometres, larva, lifetimes, litres, metres, millimetres, mosquitoes, pupa, river mouths, salmon, semi-trailers, sequoia trees, tonnes, wet season

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## Possible literacy focus:

- Identifying comparative language.
- Using adjectives of comparison.

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## ESL possibilities:

- Recognising that 'salmon' and 'barramundi' are plural spellings
- Explaining key information about each living thing.



## Summary

This book highlights amazing plant and animal lifetimes. Amazing growth rates, size, lifespans and reproduction are discussed.

**AlphaWorld**



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