

Name: _____

A Horse is a Horse Unless it's a Seahorse



By Kelly Hashway

Seahorses get their names because of their profiles. From the side view, a seahorse resembles a horse. Of course, a seahorse really isn't much like a horse at all. Maybe that's because it's a fish. But oddly enough, this type of fish is a poor swimmer.



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Seahorses share many characteristics with other animals. Their eyes can move independently of each other, like a chameleon's. Also like a chameleon, seahorses can change color. They can use this color changing ability to blend into their surroundings and escape predators. They can range in color, spanning white, red, yellow, black, brown, and gray.



Male seahorses have pouches like kangaroos, where they carry their young. Like armadillos, seahorses have long snouts, which suck up food. They are big eaters, grazing continuously throughout the day on plankton, crustaceans, and shrimp. Seahorses are even like stegosaurus in that they have bone plates covering their bodies. These bone plates are arranged like rings. This acts like a suit of armor to protect the seahorse from predators, but it also limits the seahorse's flexibility.

These amazing creatures can be found all around the world. And while they share features with many different animals, the seahorse is definitely a creature all its own.

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1. Where is a seahorse's pectoral fin located?
- a. on it's back
 - b. on its tail
 - c. on its nose
 - d. behind its eyes



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4. Reread the following sentence from the passage and choose the best definition for the underlined word.

While they use fins to move through the water, they aren't able to maneuver as well as fish that swim horizontally.

The underlined word means...

- a. bump into objects
 - b. feel water currents
 - c. wiggle its tail
 - d. perform a quick or skillful move
5. What type of passage is this?
- a. science fiction
 - b. realistic fiction
 - c. non-fiction
 - d. fantasy

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



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4. ___ h a ___ ___ c t e ___ i ___ t ___ c s

clue: traits; properties

4. _____

5. ___ ___ a ___ ___ l e o ___

clue: species of lizard that can change color

5. _____

6. ___ r a ___ i ___ g

clue: eating continually throughout the day

6. _____

7. ___ l e ___ i ___ i l ___ ___ y

clue: ability to move and bend

7. _____

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In the article, "A Horse is a Horse Unless it's a Seahorse", you learned many facts about seahorses.

Write a paragraph about seahorses. Include some sentences that are opinions and



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ANSWER KEY

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d. perform a quick or skillful move

5. What type of passage is this?

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ANSWER KEY

A Horse is a Horse Unless



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clue: eating continually throughout the day

6. grazing

7. f l e x i b i l i t y

clue: ability to move and bend

7. flexibility