



Seahorses at the Aquarium

Level G / 132 words / informational

High frequency words:

around, eat, has, its, long, very

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title.
- Possible discussion questions: "Where have you seen a seahorse? What do you know about seahorses?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss each photograph in the book. Notice details in the pictures and use that information to better understand the text.
- Help the children find any tricky words in the text: *aquarium, curly, and seahorse*. Discuss meaning, word structure, and sounds you expect to hear in those words. Have children clap and count the syllables. Notice that *seahorse* is a compound word.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. While they're reading, listen to and prompt each student to use meaning, structure, and visual information to figure out words, self-correct, or improve expression.
- Children should be able to track print with their eyes, move quickly through the text, and read fluently while paying attention to punctuation, except at point of difficulty.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you notice students using correctly.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "What is the shape of a seahorse's head? How fast does a seahorse swim? Why?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Why would it be helpful to look in two directions at the same time? What would you do if you could look in two different directions at the same time?"

Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Find and discuss the word *snout* with the /ou/ vowel sound. Using magnetic letters, create other words with the same vowel sound (*about, out, pout, spout*).
- Help the students locate the words with the -ing suffix: *hanging, holding, moving, and swimming*.
- Point out the apostrophe in the word *horse's*. Explain that the 's means possession.

Rereading for fluency

- Have the child(ren) read the story again aloud, listening for phrased, fluent oral reading that includes appropriate pausing, intonation and word stress.

Writing activity

- Have each student write and complete the following sentence: "A seahorse has a _____ so it can _____." Then have the students draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written.

FUN FACT

In Greek Mythology, hippocamps, also known as seahorses, were the fish-tailed horses of the sea. These creatures had the head of a horse and the tail of a fish. Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea, traveled in a chariot drawn by fierce seahorses.

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Finding and clapping multisyllabic words; Noticing compound words; Practicing the /ou/ vowel sound; Practicing words with the -ing suffix; Introducing possessive words with the 's ending; Rereading.