

Contents

Story 1:

Animals that help people 2



Story 2:

The Pickup Robot 12



Story 3:

Surprise, surprise! 22



Animals that help people

Pre-reading question

How do animals help you? Clue: think of what you eat, drink and the clothes you wear.

New words

Purring – A purring cat is a happy cat.

Destination – I am going to reach my destination.

Livestock – Livestock are animals we find on farms such as pigs, sheep and cattle.

Marine – Marine animals live in the sea.

Pests – Rats and mosquitoes are pests.

There are many kinds of animals on Planet Earth.

There are wild animals, domesticated animals such as farm animals, and tame animals such as pets.

Animals play important roles in people's lives. Many animals are naturally helpful to humans.

We know that animals can be friends to people too.

In this book you will learn about the many ways animals are helpful to people.



Pets

Pets are tame animals that live with people.

Dogs and cats are common pets that people own. They are our furry friends!

Dogs often protect their owners.

Think of how your dog barks when there is someone at the gate!

Regular exercise with your dog can also help you to keep fit and healthy.

Cuddling a purring cat can comfort you when you are feeling sad.

Cats help to keep rats and mice away from people's homes and fields.





Working animals

Some working animals do hard and heavy work for people.

Horses, cattle and camels are all animals that can be trained to work and help humans.

They transport goods, carry people and pull heavy loads, such as carts and logs.

Other animals, such as police dogs, do dangerous work for people.

Rats can be trained to sniff for land mines buried underground.

The land mines can then be taken away before they explode and injure people or animals.



Guard dogs protect us and our homes from thieves.

Service dogs are trained to support people who need help.

Service dogs walk next to and guide blind people to make sure they reach their destination safely.

Service dogs can help nervous people stay calm or can alert people with epilepsy when a seizure is coming.

Sniffer dogs help police to find bombs or to search for missing people.

Hunting dogs help hunters find animals in the veld.

Herding dogs help farmers herd sheep into the kraal at night to keep predators away.



Livestock

Livestock are animals that are bred to give us food and clothing.

Sheep, cattle, pigs, goats and poultry are different kinds of livestock.



sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● lamb● mutton● wool
cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● milk● beef● leather
pigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● pork● ham● bacon● leather

goats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• milk• meat• cheese• leather
chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• meat• eggs• bedding

In South Africa, it is customary to slaughter a cow or goat as part of ceremonies, such as weddings and funerals.





Marine animals

Whales live in the oceans and are the largest mammals on Earth. Whales help people by cycling nutrients in the ocean, which helps to make more oxygen in the air for us to breathe. Whale watching in South Africa attracts tourists and this creates jobs.

Dolphins make people happy with their leaping and diving skills. It is also well-known that dolphins have saved people's lives in the ocean.





Bees and butterflies

Bees and butterflies help transfer pollen from flower to flower. This helps plants to produce fruit and vegetables.

Bees give us honey that we use for eating, cooking and as medicine. Some people keep bees for business and they sell the honey.



Birds

Birds transfer seeds. They eat seeds that are spread through their droppings. Their droppings fertilise the soil, which feeds plants. Birds are great at pest control because many types of birds eat insects, such as flies and mosquitoes. Owls control pests by catching rats and mice.





We are lucky to share the planet with so many animals that help us.

Imagine a world without animals?

- Who would do heavy and dangerous work for us?
- Who would keep us safe from criminals?
- Who would guide and support us and comfort us when we feel scared or sad?

Because of animals we have meat, eggs and milk, woollen jerseys and leather shoes.

Animals make our lives better and that is why it is important to treat them with care and respect.

If you have animals at home, look after them and make sure they are healthy and have enough food and water.

Remember, if you care for them, they will always care for you.

Post-reading questions

1. Name some animals that we keep as pets.
2. What do we call animals that transport goods and carry loads?
3. Of all the animals you read about in this story, which do you think is the most useful to humans? Explain your answer.

