

Articles & Stories for Notetaking & Summaries
for use with Units I & II of
Teaching Writing: Structure & Style

General Subjects (reading level, gr.1-3)

Rocks
Cattle Ranchers
Growing a Garden
Rodeo
Clubs
Piano Lessons
Hockey
Lodgepole Pine
Australia
Harmful Foods
Stars
All-Terrain Vehicles
The Ear
Mushrooms
Eggplant (a satire)
Jigsaw Puzzles (more articles like this one can be found at: <http://www.LearningKingdom.com>)
Carnivorous Fungus

Animals (reading level, gr.1-4)

Horses
Pigs
Buffalo Hunt
Penguins
Fawns
Egret
Eagle Eyes
Whales
Beluga Whales
Narwhals
The Mysterious Chameleon

Unbelievable Bugs (reading level, gr.3-6)

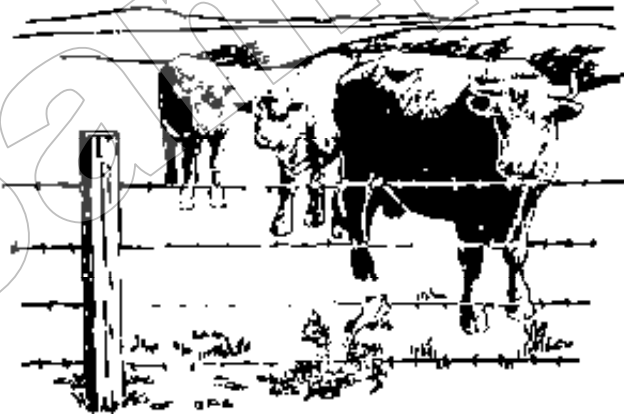
Vulture Bees
Fungus Gnats
Booklice
Dance Flies
Petroleum Flies

Aesop's Fables More public domain Aesop's fables can be found at:
<http://attila.stevens-tech.edu/~soh1/aesop.html>

The Eagle and the Arrow
The Goose with the Golden Eggs
The Bald Man and the Fly
The Wind and the Sun
The Tortoise and the Birds
The Ant and the Grasshopper

Cattle Ranchers

A cattle rancher must check his cows every day. He watches as they move about. He checks the water supply. He counts them. If flies pester them, he puts a fly tag on their ear. He calls a vet when they are sick. He likes to see the calves on their feet. Ranchers enjoy looking after their cows.



Growing a Garden

Many people enjoy gardening. They often grow vegetables to eat. Pretty flowers are fun to grow. Some gardens called orchards have fruit trees. People all over the world have gardens. Even city people may have small ones. It is fun to watch the plants grow. A garden provides fun, food and exercise.



Rodeo

Cowboys and cowgirls perform in rodeos. They compete in many contests. There are chuck wagon races. People ride horses and race around barrels. Cowboys try to lasso calves. Bull riding is a dangerous sport. Steer wrestling takes strong arms. Cowboys and cowgirls can win trophies and prizes. Rodeos are very popular in the west.



Egret

An egret is a bird like the heron. They have long legs and a long neck. Their bill is thin and long. Their wingspan is 170 cm.(6 ft.) long. They live everywhere in the world except the far North. Hunters killed many for their feathers. They became nearly extinct. Now laws protect them. The egret can be found near almost any body of water. The egret and heron are close relations.

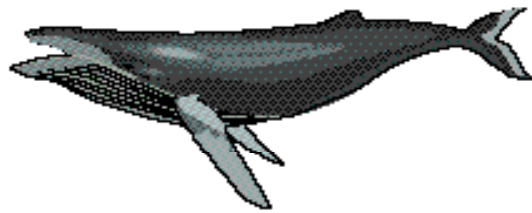
Eagle Eyes

Eagles have eyes quite different from most animals. They have two focal points in each eye. Each focal point has a very high concentration of light receptors. This makes it possible for them to see fine details. Humans have the focal point of each eye straight ahead. This allows us to see most effectively at the center of our field of vision. Eagles have two focal points in each eye: one straight ahead, and one sideways. Because of this, eagles can see much better than we can. For example, they can spot a rabbit from two miles away! Relatives of eagles such as hawks and falcons share this remarkable ability. Their excellent vision helps them be efficient hunters.



Whales

A whale is a huge sea mammal. They are among the most intelligent animals. There are many species of whales. The blue whale can grow up to thirty meters (100 ft.) long and weigh up to 200 tons! Some whales are much smaller. The belugas are only three to five meters (16 ft.) long. Like all mammals, whales breathe air. They can hold their breath for a long time. People used to hunt whales for oil and food. Today all whales are protected. They are important and huge sea creatures.



Dance Flies

Dance Flies are found all over North America. These tiny flies often gather in huge mating swarms over forest streams and other damp areas. The swarms of flies swirl and twirl up and down in the air, just like graceful dancers. But the most amazing thing about these insects is that they give "courting gifts." To attract a female, a male will capture a smaller insect and present it to his mate-to-be. Some of the gifts can get pretty fancy. In the Northwest, male dance flies spin little balloons of silk and tuck a dead insect inside each one!

Petroleum Flies

The petroleum fly of California lives where most animals can't -- in pools of black oil bubbling up from the earth. Other insects get caught in these pools and drown, but not petroleum flies. The females lay their eggs right on the surface of these oily pools. When the larvae hatch, they feed on the other insects which get trapped in the oil. But the larvae don't stay on the oil pools forever. They burrow into the soil at the edge of the pools, slowly change into adults, and then crawl out of the soil to mate. Females return to the black pools of oil to lay their eggs.

The Eagle and the Arrow

An Eagle was soaring through the air when suddenly it heard the whizz of an arrow, and felt itself wounded to death. Slowly it fluttered down to the earth, with its life-blood pouring out of it. Looking down upon the arrow with which it had been pierced, it found that the shaft of the arrow had been feathered with one of its own plumes. "Alas!" it cried, as it died, "We often give our enemies the means for our own destruction."

