



WORLD'S STRANGEST

PREDATORS

CONTENTS

PICTURE CREDITS

The Publisher would like to thank the following for their kind permission to reproduce their photographs:

Page 4–5: Shutterstock / Susan E. Viera; Page 6–7: Shutterstock / GoneWithTheWind; Page 8–9: Grant Heilman Photography / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 10–11: Getty images / Science Photo Library – PASTEKA; Page 11 inset: Shutterstock / Barbara Brockhauser; Page 12: Shutterstock / Thomas Wong; Page 12 inset: Shutterstock / Ian Redding; Page 13: Shutterstock / worldswildlifewonders; Page 14–15: Shutterstock / Jaime Pharr; Page 15 inset: Shutterstock / wael alreweie; Page 16: Shutterstock / Jinny Jin; Page 17: Getty images / Doxieone Photography; Page 18–19: Shutterstock / outdoorsman; Page 18 inset: Shutterstock / Ondrej Prosimsky; Page 20: Getty images / Thomas P. Peschak; Page 21: Getty images / Giuseppe Sedda / REDA&CO / UIG; Page 22–23: Shutterstock / cineuno; Page 22 inset: Getty images / Doxieone Photography; Page 23 inset: Grant Heilman Photography / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 24–25: Shutterstock / Alfredo Maiquez; Page 25 inset: Shutterstock / Valdecasas; Page 26–27: Getty images / Matthijs Kuijpers; Page 27 inset: Shutterstock / Matt Jeppson; Page 28–29: Getty images / André De Kesel; Page 30: Shutterstock / belizar; Page 31: Getty images / Colin Zylka / EyeEm; Page 32–33: Shutterstock / kaschibo; Page 34: Terry Whitaker / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 35: ephotocorp / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 36–37: Shutterstock / Ariel Bravy; Page 38–39: Shutterstock / Milan Zygmunt; Page 40–41: Shutterstock / cineuno; Page 40 inset: Shutterstock / Alfredo Maiquez; Page 41 inset: Terry Whitaker / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 42–43: Getty images / Ali Trisno Pranoto; Page 44–45: Shutterstock / Ryan M. Bolton; Page 46: Getty images / CraigRJD; Page 47: Shutterstock / Vince Adam; Page 48–49: Getty images / Rebecca R Jackrel; Page 49 inset: Shutterstock / Galina Savina; Page 50–51: Getty images / Franco Banfi; Page 52: Getty images / Image Source; Page 53: Shutterstock / Ryan M. Bolton; Page 54–55: AfriPics.com / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 54 inset: Shutterstock / torikell; Page 56–57: Getty images / Birgitte Wilms / Minden Pictures; Page 57 inset: Shutterstock / Mike Workman; Page 58–59: Shutterstock / cineuno; Page 58 inset: Shutterstock / Ryan M. Bolton; Page 59 inset: AfriPics.com / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 60–61: Shutterstock / Vladimir Wrangel; Page 62–63: Getty images / Anup Shah; Page 62 inset: WILDLIFE GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 64–65: Getty images / Vi Vien Lee; Page 65 inset: srijanrc travel / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 66: Getty images / Mark Newman; Page 67: BIOSPHOTO / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 68–69: Shutterstock / Piotr Krzeslak; Page 69 inset: Shutterstock / Wildlife World; Page 70–71: Minden Pictures / Alamy Stock Photo; Page 72–73: Shutterstock / aquapix; Page 74–75: Getty images / Eric Lowenbach; Page 74 inset: Getty images / Mark Moffett / Minden Pictures; Page 76–77: Shutterstock / Braam Collins; Page 76 inset: Getty images / Vincent Grafhorst / Minden Pictures; Page 78–79: Shutterstock / cineuno; Page 78 inset: Getty images / Anup Shah; Page 79 inset: Getty images / Eric Lowenbach; Page 80: Shutterstock / Susan E. Viera.

INTRODUCTION 6

PREDATORS #40-31

SHORT-TAILED SHREW..... 8
VENUS FLYTRAP..... 10
GLOW-WORM 12
PLATYPUS 13
COBRA LILY 14

PIRANHA..... 16
GREEN HERON 17
ARCTIC FOX 18
BOX JELLYFISH 20
GREAT WHITE PELICAN 21

QUIZ 22

PREDATORS #30-21

BARN OWL 24
GILA MONSTER 26
PAUSSINAE BEETLE 28
VAMPIRE BAT..... 30
BARRACUDA..... 31

BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS 32
MARGAY 34
TRAPDOOR SPIDER..... 35
SAWFISH 36
AFRICAN BULLFROG..... 38

QUIZ 40

PREDATORS #20-11

KOMODO DRAGON 42
AMAZONIAN GIANT CENTIPEDE..... 44
TASMANIAN DEVIL..... 46
TENTACLED SNAKE..... 47
POLAR BEAR..... 48

STONEFISH 50
GREAT WHITE SHARK 52
ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE 53
AFRICAN CROWNED EAGLE 54
FROGFISH..... 56

QUIZ 58

PREDATORS #10-1

ANACONDA 60
CHIMPANZEE..... 62
CROCODILE..... 64
ELECTRIC EEL 66
SPIDER-TAILED HORNED VIPER..... 67

GREAT GREY SHRIKE..... 68
PIRATE SPIDER 70
MORAY EEL 72
TARANTULA HAWK 74
HONEY BADGER..... 76

QUIZ 78

GLOSSARY 80

INTRODUCTION

Every creature needs to eat to survive, and for some that means eating other animals. To do this, they must be able to catch animals that really don't want to end up as dinner.

In this book, we've ranked the world's strangest predators to find out about...

- ☆ The cunning ways they try to catch their prey
- ☆ Their ferocity
- ☆ Their beastly behaviour

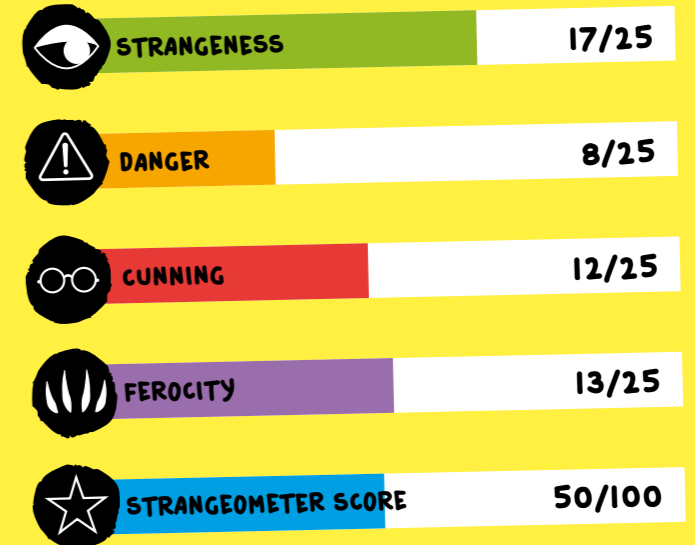
Read on and find out about the most bizarre and scary predators on the planet, including:

- ☆ The plants that gobble up insects for lunch
 - ☆ The ferocious fish with a taste for flesh
 - ☆ Some of the most poisonous animals in the world
 - ☆ A real-life dragon that can tackle a buffalo
 - ☆ The snake with a unique disguise for luring birds into its clutches
- ... and many more!

STRANGEOMETER

The creatures in this book are all unique in their own ways, so we've used a special strangeometer to rank them. This is made up of four categories with a score out of 25 for each. These categories are...

STRANGEOMETER



STRANGENESS



This looks at how unusual the creature and its attack method are.

DANGER



How menacing is this creature to animals and humans?

CUNNING



If the creature uses sneaky skills to get its dinner, it will score highly in this category.

FEROCITY



Some animals are simply very fierce. They will get big scores here.

STRANGEOMETER SCORE



These are added up to get a strangeometer score out of 100!

#33



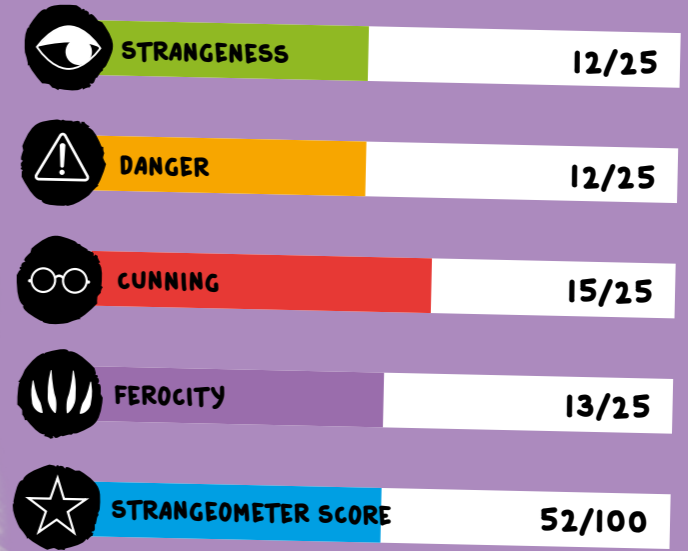
The white coat of the Arctic fox provides great winter camouflage, allowing it to blend into the snow and ice. When the seasons change, its coat becomes brown or grey to blend in with rocks and plants.



The Arctic fox has great hearing and listens to the ice for the sounds of small creatures hiding beneath it. When it hears a noise, it jumps on the ice to break it and get to its prey.

When food is really scarce, it will even eat its own poo!

STRANGEOMETER



SOMETIMES MY WINTER COAT IS BLUE-GREY IN COLOUR.

ARCTIC FOX

This snowy white fox may look cute, but it's a vicious hunter, tracking down seal pups in their snow dens and eating them. Its white coat keeps it hidden in the snow so it can creep up on other animals like lemmings, voles, hares and birds. It has also cleverly adapted to be able to keep warm at temperatures as low as -50°C (-58°F).

#29

THE CLUE IS IN MY NAME. I'M A MONSTROUS PREDATOR!

GILA MONSTER

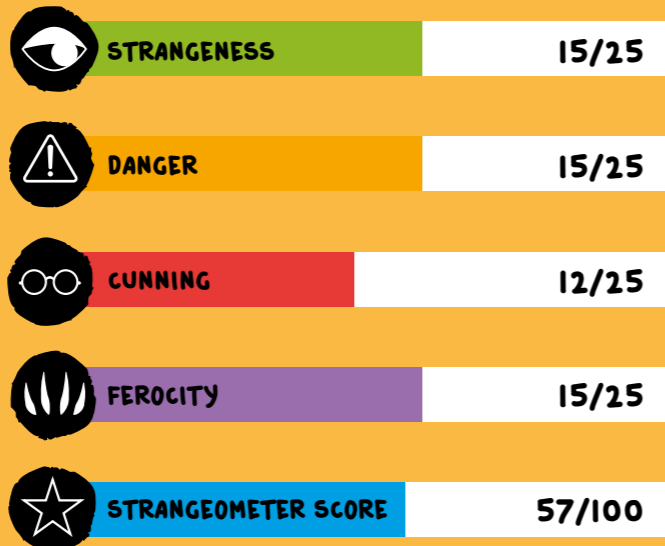
The Gila monster is one of the few venomous lizards. It grabs and holds onto its prey for up to 15 minutes while its venom attacks the nerves of its victim.



North America



STRANGEOMETER



The Gila swallows its prey alive if it's small or crushes it to death if it's bigger. It doesn't chew its food but swallows it whole. It can eat about a third of its body weight in one sitting and stores fat in its tail, which allows it to go up to a year without food.

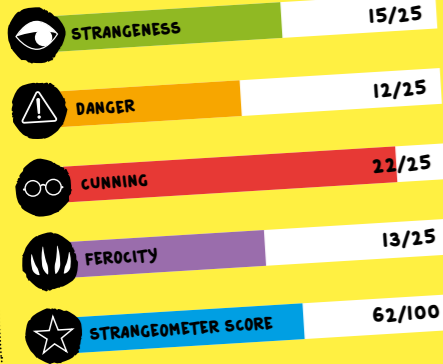
A bite from a Gila is very painful, but don't try to shake the creature off. The best way to get it to let go is to dunk its head underwater.

#24

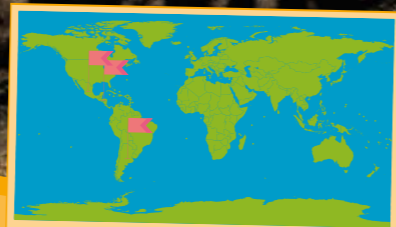
Its clever trick is to mimic the sound of a young tamarin monkey. The call attracts adult tamarin monkeys, who come closer to investigate, and the margay can then attack. Although the mimicry isn't very good, it works well enough to get the monkeys' attention.

I'M THE IMPRESSIONIST OF THE CAT WORLD.

STRANGEOMETER



The margay can turn its back legs 180 degrees to let it run head-first down a tree, like a squirrel. It can also hang from a branch with one foot.



Mexico, Central and South America

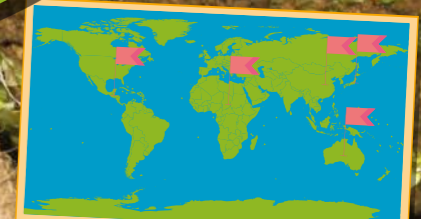
MARGAY

One of the smaller big cats, the cunning margay lives in forests where it feeds on mammals, birds and fruit.

#23

TRAPDOOR SPIDER

Not all spiders spin webs. The trapdoor spider hides in a hole camouflaged with sticks and leaves, and grabs insects that pass by. Some even make their burrows next to streams to catch fish.

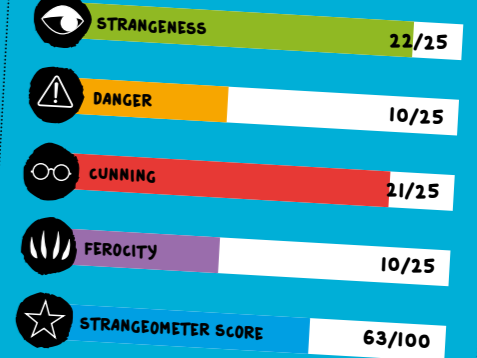


The Americas, Africa, China, Japan and Australia

KNOCK, KNOCK. WHO'S THERE? ONLY CREEPY LITTLE ME!

The spider hides behind its trapdoor and waits to feel vibrations from passing prey. It then leaps out and drags its dinner back into the hole.

STRANGEOMETER



Female trapdoor spiders remain in or near their burrows for most of their lives and have to make the hole bigger as they grow.

#22

Its saw is packed with sensory organs that detect tiny electrical signals made by fish swimming nearby. It then uses its saw to attack and stun the fish before gobbling them up.



MY SAW HELPS ME TO FIND FISH AND THEN STUN THEM.



SAWFISH

The sawfish has a ferocious-looking nose called a rostrum that really does look like a double-sided saw. Adult sawfish can grow up to 7m (23ft) long, and the saw part can be a quarter of its length.

The rostrum can also be used like a shovel to dig for prey in the muddy seafloor. Unfortunately, sawfish are now one of the most endangered species in the world.

Baby sawfish are born with their saws covered in a protective material so that they don't injure their mother.