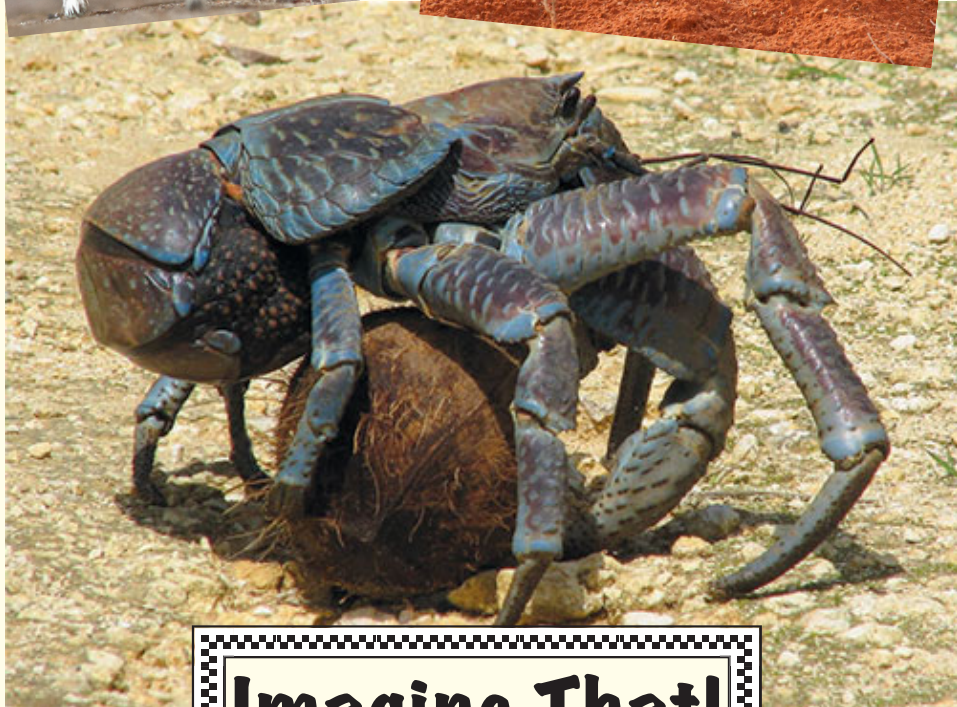


# ODDITIES

of  
Nature



**Imagine That!**  
**Stories**  
**Free Supplemental**  
**Lesson Pack 1**



## HELPFUL ADVICE

These are *Imagine That!* stories that can be used with any program of instruction to develop imagery for language comprehension, and can be used with the Visualizing and Verbalizing® (V/V®) program. Although these stories have been written at specific grade levels, you can use them with other grade levels as you feel is appropriate. Each story features a main idea or topic to be imaged, and then provides detailed imagery for the topic. While sentences or paragraphs may contain much concrete detail that can be imaged, others contain abstract concepts.

It is recommended that you start with the vocabulary to help students both with decoding and with imaging new words and concepts. While reading the story, be sure to ask imagery questions to elicit detailed imagery from the student.

Once you have completed each story, move on to the Higher Order Thinking questions. These are main idea, inference, conclusion, evaluation, and prediction questions. The order of the HOT questions is such that they stimulate students' thinking first about the gestalt and then about the details of the story. Some questions may include contrast or introduce additional information, from which the students can extend their thinking about the story. It is not necessary to ask every question, but be sure you ask enough that your student has the gestalt of the story.

Additional activities are provided.

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Preread words for each story:

- |   |                                   |                  |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | grassland<br>armadillo<br>termite | mound<br>snout   |
| 2 | Arabian Desert<br>camels<br>camp  | groom<br>inspect |
| 3 | coconut crab<br>huge<br>poke      | claws<br>creep   |

- |   |                                 |                |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 4 | kiwi bird<br>nostrils<br>soil   | plucks<br>ripe |
| 5 | peacock spider<br>twig<br>waves | flaps<br>join  |

Study and visualize the vocabulary:

- grassland* n., a large area covered with grass  
*armadillo* n., a furry mammal with a long snout and tongue for catching ants and termites.  
*termite* n., a small, pale insect that lives in colonies in mounds of earth  
*mound* n., a pile, often a hard-packed pile of dirt  
*snout* n., a nose and mouth that sticks out, like a wolf's or giraffe's  
*Arabian Desert* n., a hot, sandy desert in Western Asia, near Africa  
*camels* n., a horse-sized sandy-colored mammal with a large hump on its back  
*camp* n., a temporary place to live, often in tents  
*groom* v., brush and clean an animal's coat or fur  
*inspect* v., look at something closely, often looking for something wrong  
*coconut crab* n., a large crab that can climb coconut trees to eat coconuts  
*huge* adj., very big  
*poke* v., jab at or shove, often with a finger  
*claws* n., curved, hard pinchers for grabbing something  
*creep* v., sneak into  
*kiwi bird* n., a chubby, brown, flightless bird with a long bill or beak  
*nostrils* n., the openings or holes in a nose or beak  
*soil* n., the upper layer of earth, black or brown moist dirt  
*plucks* v., grab something and quickly pull it away from where it was  
*ripe* adj., ready to be harvested and eaten, such as ripe fruit  
*peacock spider* n., a brightly-colored jumping spider  
*twig* n., a small branch  
*waves* v., to move something back and forth, often a hand, to get someone's attention  
*flaps* n., pieces of something thin, attached to something else on one side  
*join* v., connect, bring things together

**Tip: Use the Picture to Picture or a Word Imaging steps to reinforce vocabulary.**



## The Exterminator

On the African grassland, the aardvark tears open termite mounds to get at his food. In the dark of night, he sniffs out these mounds, which can be twice as tall as a man. A mound is made of rock-hard clay and mud, but with his thick claws, the aardvark can rip a hole right in its side. Angry termites spill out and swarm his legs, but his tough skin guards him from their bites. The aardvark shoves his long snout in, slides out his thin, sticky tongue, and licks up his meal.

Higher Order Thinking Questions:

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. What do you think the aardvark eats?
3. Do you think termite mounds are hard to get in to? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think he *sniffs* out the mounds? Why not just look for them?
5. Why do you think the termites are angry?
6. What do you think might happen if the aardvark had thin skin?



## Beauty Contest For Camels

Once a year, men from all over the Arabian Desert take a journey with their best camels. They set up camp near a huge white tent on the edge of a city, and groom their camels. Judges inside the white tent look at thousands of camels, noting the shapes of their humps and heads. They compare the camels' eyelashes, legs, and the shine of their hair. Days later, the judges inspect the two best-looking camels, and when they pick her the winner, her owner jumps with joy.

Higher Order Thinking Questions:  
From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the men take their *best* camels to this event?
3. Why do you think the men set up camp? Why not just wait in a line?
4. Why do you think the men groom their camels?
5. Why do you think the judges look so closely at each camel?
6. Why do you think the winning camel's owner was so happy?



## Coconut Crab

The beach-going coconut crab has great strength in his huge front claws. He can poke and scratch through the hard shell of a coconut to get at the sweet fruit. He is also known to creep in and steal from tents. When he finds a shiny thing, even if it is a big pot, he drags it through the sand, back to his hole.

Higher Order Thinking Questions:

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. How do you think the coconut crab got his name?
3. This crab is also known as the robber crab. Why might this name fit?
4. What do you think the coconut crab does with the opened coconut?
5. How do you think the coconut crab drags home a shiny thing?
6. Why do you think people don't stop the crab from stealing their things?
7. The coconut crab is the largest land crab in the world. How might his size be helpful to him?



## Sniffing Kiwi Bird

The kiwi bird is a unique bird that sniffs out his food. He has nostrils on the tip of his long thin beak. He searches the forest floor at night, poking his beak into the soil to sniff. He plucks out worms and bugs hiding deep in the dirt. When he smells ripe berries on the ground, he eats those up, too.

Higher Order Thinking Questions:

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the kiwi *sniffs out* his food instead of *looking* for it?
3. How do you think it helps the kiwi to have his nostrils at the *tip* of his beak?
4. Why do you think the kiwi's beak is so long and thin?
5. Why do you think he sniffs in the soil?



## The Peacock Spider

A peacock spider sits on a twig and waits for a female to come near. He waves one leg up in the air to get her to look. When she looks at him, he waves two legs back and forth. Then he lifts his backside up above his head. It has wide flaps that form a bright flag. He waves his legs and shows off the blue, green, yellow, and orange colors on his flag. He dances side to side until the female joins him on the twig.

Higher Order Thinking Questions:

From what you pictured...

1. What is the main idea of this story?
2. Why do you think the spider first waves one leg in the air?
3. Why do you think he lifts the flaps on his backside?
4. Why do you think the flag is so colorful?
5. Why do you think the spider dances?
6. Why do you think the female joins the spider on the twig?
7. Male peacocks have tails with brightly colored feathers. Why do you think this spider is called the "peacock" spider?

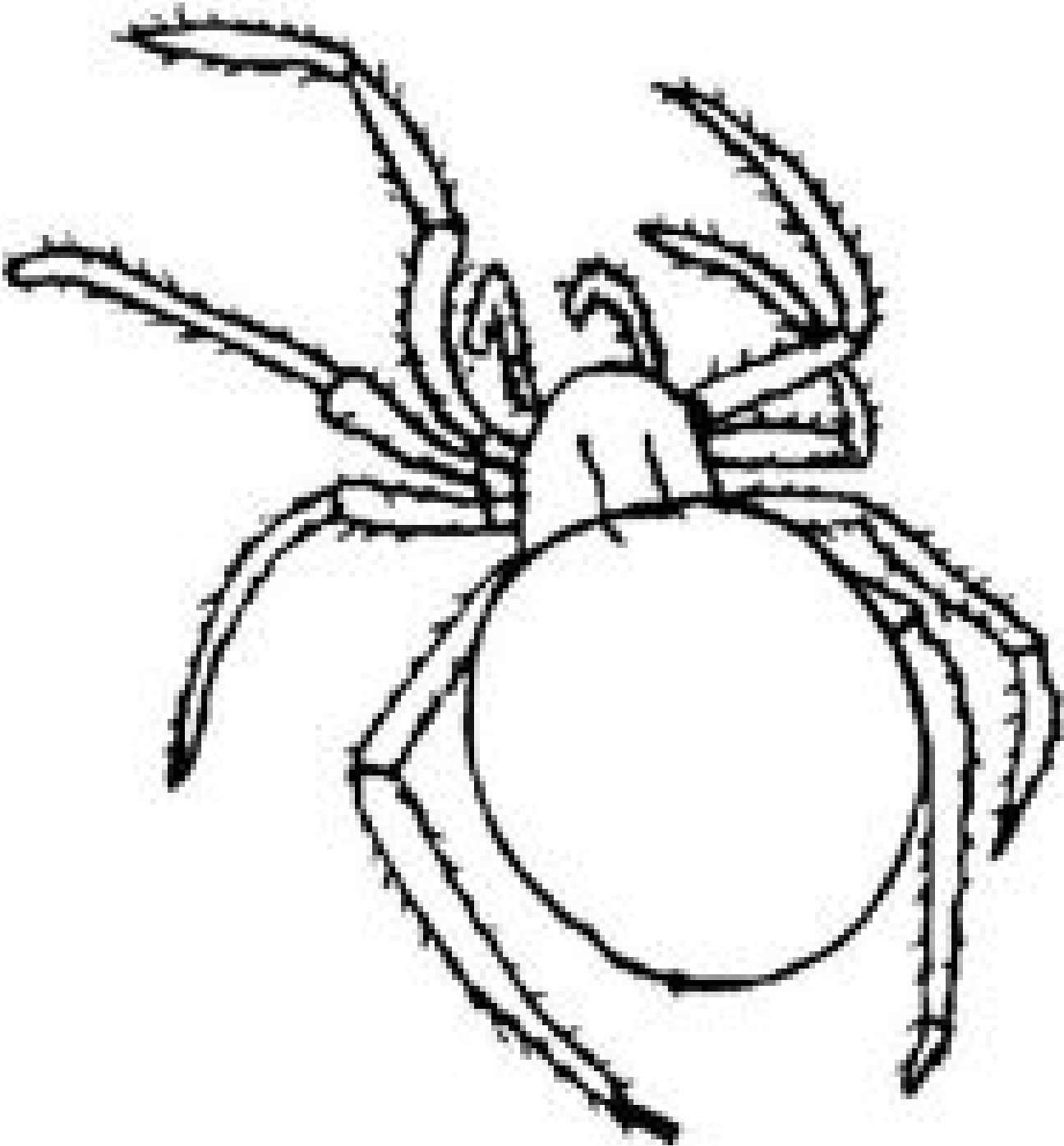




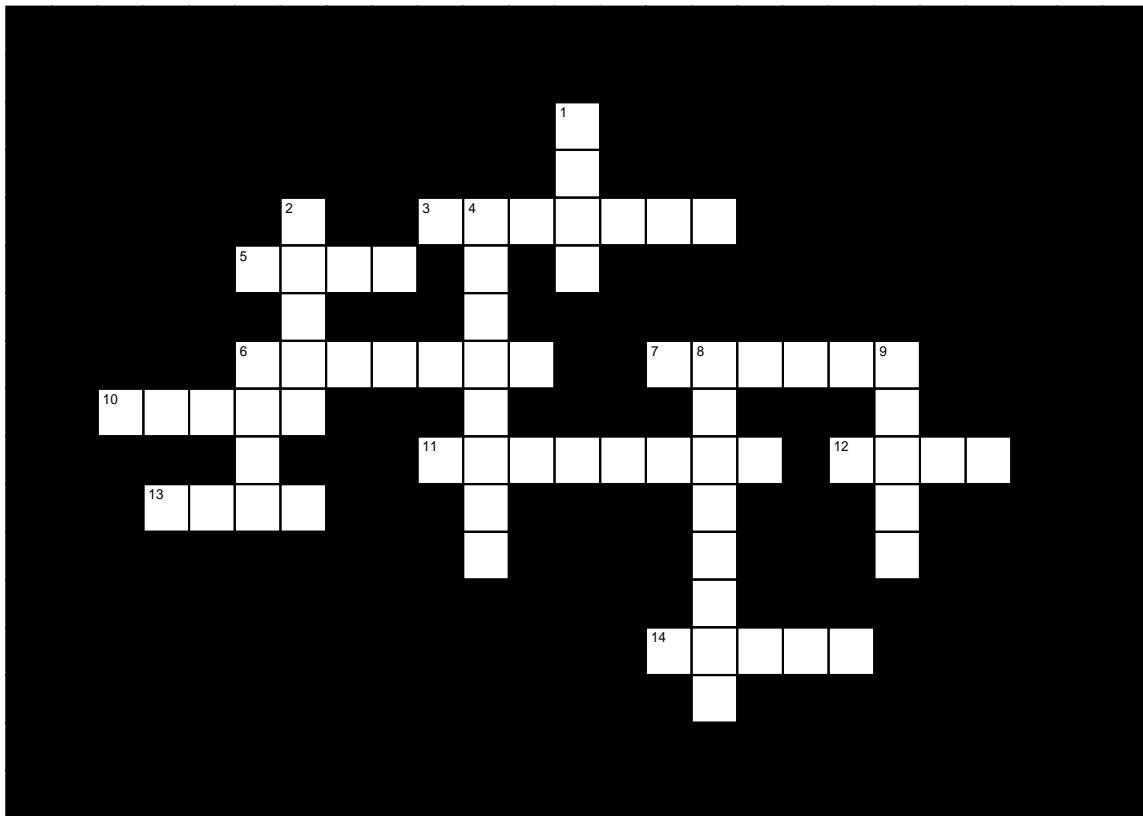
## Color Your Peacock Spider

The Peacock Spider's bright flags have unique designs and are as colorful as can be.

- How many colors can you picture to put on your spider?
- Try different shapes and patterns to make it unique to your imagery!



## Oddities Crossword Puzzle



### Across

3. look at something closely, often looking for something wrong
5. a temporary place to live, often in tents
6. a small, pale insect that lives in colonies in mounds of earth
7. a horse-sized sandy-colored mammal with a large hump on its back
10. curved, hard pinchers for grabbing something
11. a chubby, brown, flightless bird with a long bill or beak
12. connect, bring things together
13. very big
14. sneak into

### Down

1. ready to be harvested and eaten, such as ripe fruit
2. to move something back and forth, often a hand, to get someone's attention
4. the openings or holes in a nose or beak
6. a small branch
8. a furry mammal with a long snout and tongue for catching ants and termites.
9. a nose and mouth that sticks out, like a wolf's or giraffe's

# Oddities Word Search Puzzle

A	G	G	T	M	E	A	J	D	G	L	Z	L	X	W	I	N	M	O	B	L	T	O	X	M
D	L	W	R	U	I	W	B	H	O	E	C	M	P	M	Y	K	U	H	Z	P	I	F	H	Q
K	T	R	U	Z	R	W	R	O	E	G	R	F	M	S	F	J	A	Y	T	G	H	Y	Y	F
D	W	C	N	Z	M	W	A	V	E	S	E	M	U	O	Y	U	O	J	R	I	P	E	K	A
W	O	W	U	A	J	S	Q	V	C	Z	E	C	Y	T	L	K	M	I	C	G	S	Z	D	A
V	E	U	S	B	M	O	T	I	K	T	P	S	Y	U	H	N	S	A	N	Q	A	A	L	X
T	P	G	U	T	H	A	J	Q	J	A	G	K	Z	X	W	V	H	G	Y	X	R	A	O	T
Q	E	R	B	A	E	Y	E	F	T	Z	U	I	O	V	J	Z	I	E	A	I	D	R	L	R
R	U	U	F	F	C	R	B	V	N	S	S	W	S	J	L	Q	P	T	E	O	H	D	N	M
K	Q	Z	L	T	N	T	M	G	P	W	S	I	O	Z	A	D	J	G	T	E	G	V	C	V
N	J	F	I	W	E	W	V	I	A	C	Y	B	H	G	N	M	H	R	F	F	W	A	A	P
D	H	K	W	M	C	P	M	L	T	N	N	I	V	A	C	B	W	T	J	F	P	R	M	K
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R	Z	N	O	S	T	R	I	L	S	E	J	D	D	X	M	F	T	Z	V	V	V	Q	L	W
U	I	L	S	F	T	T	C	A	M	P	N	B	S	N	O	U	T	A	V	F	C	G	S	R
C	J	Q	D	W	H	J	T	Q	S	E	R	L	S	P	H	V	Q	P	M	B	H	U	G	E
N	D	U	S	Z	O	H	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	W	I	G	T	U	Z	K	R	G	Y	U

aardvark    termite    snout    camels    camp    inspect    kiwi bird    nostrils    ripe  
 huge    claws    creep    join    waves    twig

