


# 6

# Clever creatures

## Reading

### Before reading

- 1 Discuss these questions.
  - 1 Which animals do you think are clever?
  - 2 Which do you think are the most clever: monkeys, birds or elephants?
- 2  Read and listen.

### Which are the most intelligent animals in the world?

It's difficult to say, because different animals have different types of intelligence. For example, dolphins can speak a type of language. Also, some birds remember where they built **nests** and fly hundreds of miles to go back there. Or what about spiders? They make amazing **webs**, so maybe spiders are very intelligent too. Now let's meet three very clever **creatures**.

#### Koko the gorilla can talk.

She lives in California in the USA and she can use **sign language** to talk to people. Her teacher, Penny Patterson, has taught Koko more than 1,000 signs for different objects, actions and feelings.

Koko invents new signs when she sees new things. The first time she saw a **duck**, she used the sign for water and the sign for bird.

Penny believes that all gorillas can learn to use sign language, because they are a very intelligent species.



#### Crows are intelligent

**birds.** Betty, a **crow** who lives in England, is especially intelligent. The amazing thing about Betty is that she makes tools to get her food.

It's not unusual for crows to use **twigs** to pull food from holes in trees or in the ground. Betty can do more than that. She can pick up a piece of wire and **bend** it to make a **hook**. The hook is better than a straight piece of wire, because Betty can use it to get her food more easily.

What's more, she didn't make a hook just once, **by accident**. She has made hooks many times, while some scientists were watching her. Betty wasn't just lucky. She learnt and she remembered.





Now imagine an elephant that can paint. Sao is a 35-year-old elephant who lives in Thailand. When Sao was young, she worked in the forests. She used to pull up trees so that people could sell the wood. Then in the 1980s, companies stopped selling wood from the forests because there were not enough trees left.

Luckily, Sao has found a new job. She is a painter. She can hold a paintbrush with her trunk and paint beautiful pictures.

There are lots of elephant artists like Sao in Thailand. People can visit exhibitions and buy paintings by Sao and other amazing elephants. Sao's keepers are going to use the money from the paintings to help protect elephants.



## Vocabulary

3 Match the words from the text to the definitions.

- 1 by accident (adverb) by chance; not because you planned it
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) to make something that was straight into a curved shape
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a curved piece of metal or plastic
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a black bird that makes a loud noise
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a bird that lives on or near water
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) the place where a bird keeps its eggs
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a thin net that a spider makes to catch flies
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a language that uses hand movements, not speech
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a small, thin branch of tree
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) an animal or bird; any living thing that is not a plant

## Reading comprehension

### 4 Write Koko, Betty or Sao.

- 1 Koko is a gorilla.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ can paint beautiful pictures.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ knows lots of words in sign language.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ is a crow.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ used to work in the forests.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ bends pieces of wire.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ is thirty-five years old.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ can make hooks to get her food.

### 5 Circle the correct words to make true sentences.

- 1 Koko used two signs to say 'duck' / 'bird'.
- 2 Penny Patterson is Koko's *doctor* / *teacher*.
- 3 She says that gorillas are very *friendly* / *intelligent* animals.
- 4 Betty lives in *the UK* / *the USA*.
- 5 She made a hook when *visitors* / *scientists* were watching her.
- 6 Crows often use *grass* / *twigs* to get their food.
- 7 Sao uses her *trunk* / *mouth* to hold the brush.
- 8 She *is not* / *is* the only elephant in the world that can paint.

### 6 Answer the questions.

- 1 What clever thing can spiders do? make a web
- 2 Which animal in the text lives in California? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What are Betty's hooks made of? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Why does she make them? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Where does Sao live? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 What job did Sao do in the forests? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Why did she change her job? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Why do her keepers sell her paintings? \_\_\_\_\_

### 7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with the class.

- 1 Which is the cleverest animal: Koko, Betty or Sao?
- 2 Think of other clever animals. What amazing things can they do?
- 3 Describe an animal and what it can do. Don't say what the animal is. Ask your friends to guess.



## Meet the octopus:

### the intelligent invertebrate

Octopuses are unusual and interesting creatures. They look strange because they have eight legs and because they are invertebrates. This means that they have no back bones.

Octopuses are the most intelligent invertebrates. They can open jars and bottles to get food. Parts of an octopus's brain are in its legs so its legs can actually think!

Octopuses can remember things. When an octopus has solved a problem once, it remembers and does the same thing another day. They can remember different shapes and patterns. We know this because scientists have studied octopuses for a long time.



We use **topic sentences** to introduce information in a piece of writing. Topic sentences go at the beginning of a paragraph:

**Octopuses are the most intelligent invertebrates.** Octopuses can remember things.

8 Match the topic sentences to the paragraphs.

1 **Octopuses are invertebrates.**

3 **Octopuses like to play.**

2 **Octopuses learn with no help.**

- a Young octopuses don't stay with their parents so they don't learn from them. They don't have teachers: they teach themselves!
- b Because they have no bones in their bodies, octopuses can hide in small places between rocks.
- c Sometimes octopuses throw things and catch them. They are like children playing with a ball.

9 Write about blue whales. Use the topic sentences (a to c) and the notes.

a) **Blue whales are the biggest animals in the world.**

b) **They live in small groups.** c) **They are not dangerous to humans.**

- more than 30 metres long
- bigger than dinosaurs
- usually two or three whales in a group
- can use sounds to talk
- only eat small sea creatures
- intelligent and gentle