

Scaled Inkdogs

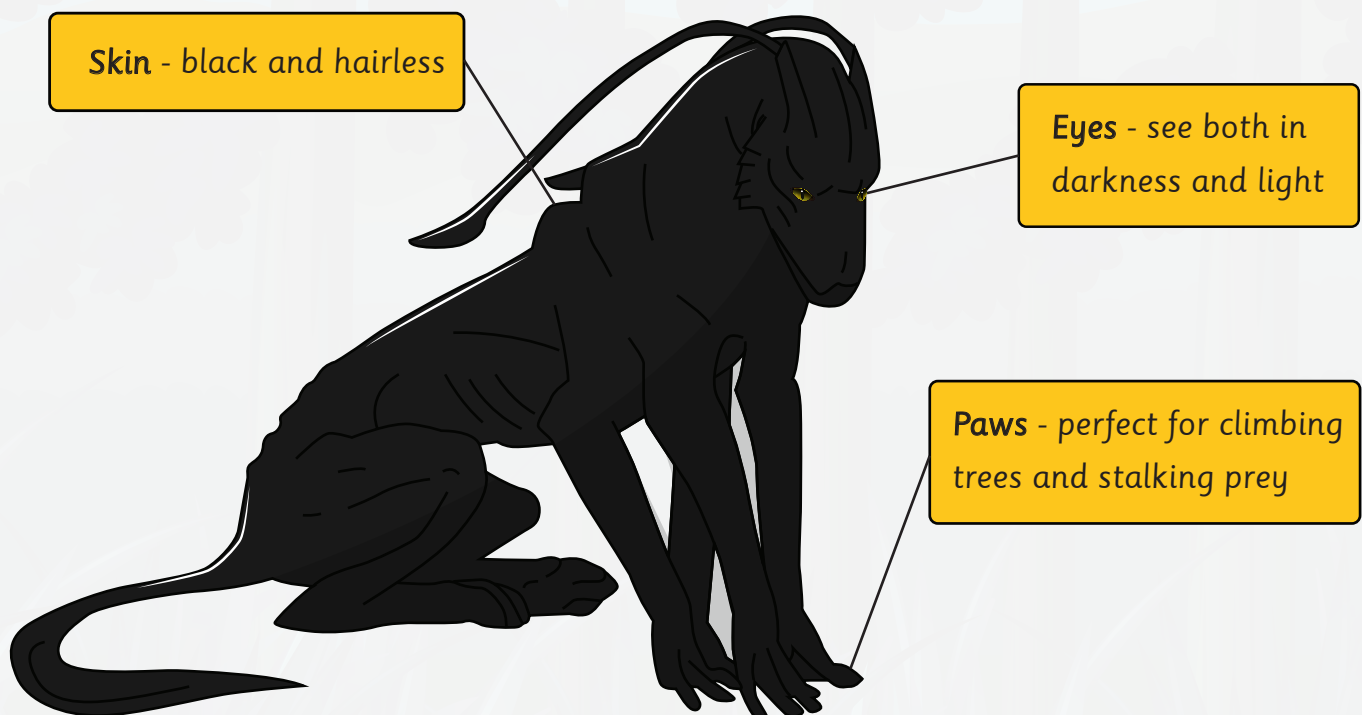
Reading Comprehension

Y5 Y6

Solarias is a moon that orbits the giant planet Colythamas. This spherical body of rock and gas contains many unusual and fascinating creatures which make this world so special. There is one creature, in particular, that has dominated the rainforests of Solarias for centuries - the vicious scaled inkdog. Because these creatures have mastered their way of life, humans have spent years studying and learning about them.

Background:

According to the natives of Solarias, the scaled inkdog is fiercely intelligent, has strong familial bonds and is completely devoted to its pack. This is why it is not only feared but respected by beings, who have studied its true nature. Unlike similar species, the brain size of the average adult scaled inkdog indicates a high level of mental processing, pattern recognition and communication skills explaining how these beasts are so dominant in their habitat. Some of the noises made by these dogs are reminiscent of hyena laughter and snake hisses, but it is believed they come from the same family tree as wolves on Earth because, even though they are far more evolved, they display the same hunting techniques and pack survival behaviours.



Habitat:

These violent, aggressive yet highly intelligent creatures live in the rainforests of Solarias and are perfectly adapted to thrive in their habitat. They are nocturnal; therefore, they enjoy the shelter of the trees during the day and the darkness provides camouflage for hunting at night. Although they are elite hunters and almost top of the food chain, they do have their own predators that attack from the sky, making the rainforest the perfect place for safety and protection. As well as equipping them with the perfect hunting ground, the weather is also ideal. The scaled inkdog's oily skin is waterproof and has a UV protective layer to guard it against the sun.

How do they hunt?

The scaled inkdog, with six legs and a lean, powerful torso, has evolved to travel swiftly in search of its prey. Their keen, alert, green eyes can see as clearly at night as in the day. They have moderate, long distance vision but their sense of smell is superb. Scaled inkdogs hunt in small packs and communicate with short barks and yelps. Their paws (which include opposable thumbs) allow them to climb trees as well as stalk from the ground; thereby, creating a varied and deadly hunting field. First the scaled inkdog stalks its prey either by hugging the ground or clinging to trees. As it is hidden, it can then approach its unsuspecting prey and attack with frightening efficiency. This graceful method of hunting has been described as 'liquid darkness'.

QUESTIONS

1. Why have humans spent years learning about the scaled inkdog?

2. Complete the table

Feature	Description	Purpose
torso		
eyes		
paws		
skin		

3. Write the meaning of the following words:

devoted	
indicates	
dominated	
elite	
equipping	

4. Explain why being nocturnal benefits the scaled inkdog.

5. What unique quality do the scaled inkdogs have that similar species don't?

6. Why are they compared to wolves?

7. Complete the table to show whether a statement is true or false and give evidence.

Statement	True	False	Evidence
The inkdog is a solitary creature.			
The inkdog is top of the food chain.			
The rainforest protects the inkdog.			

8. Write 3 ways in which the author has organised the information to help the reader.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ANSWERS

1. Why have humans spent years learning about the scaled inkdog?

Because these creatures have mastered their way of life

2. Complete the table

Feature	Description	Purpose
torso	lean, powerful	Allows it to travel swiftly.
eyes	keen, alert, green	can see as clearly at night as in the day
paws	which include opposable thumbs	allow them to climb trees
skin	is waterproof and has a UV protective layer	To guard against the sun

3. Write the meaning of the following words:

devoted	very loyal
indicates	to point out or show
dominated	to have power over something
elite	superior
equipping	to supply with things they need

4. Explain why being nocturnal benefits the scaled inkdog.

Because they can enjoy the shelter of the trees during the day and the darkness provides camouflage for hunting at night.



5. What unique quality do the scaled inkdogs have that similar species don't?

Unlike similar species, the brain size of the average adult scaled inkdog indicates a high level of mental processing, pattern recognition and communication skills.

6. Why are they compared to wolves?

because they display the same hunting techniques and pack survival behaviours.

7. Complete the table to show whether a statement is true or false and give evidence.

Statement	True	False	Evidence
The inkdog is a solitary creature.		✓	...the scaled inkdog is fiercely intelligent, has strong familial bonds and is completely devoted to its pack.
The inkdog is top of the food chain.		✓	Although they are elite hunters and almost top of the food chain, they do have their own predators that attack from the sky.
The rainforest protects the inkdog.	✓		...making the rainforest the perfect place for safety and protection.

8. Write 3 ways in which the author has organised the information to help the reader.

Sub-headings, introduction, image with labels