

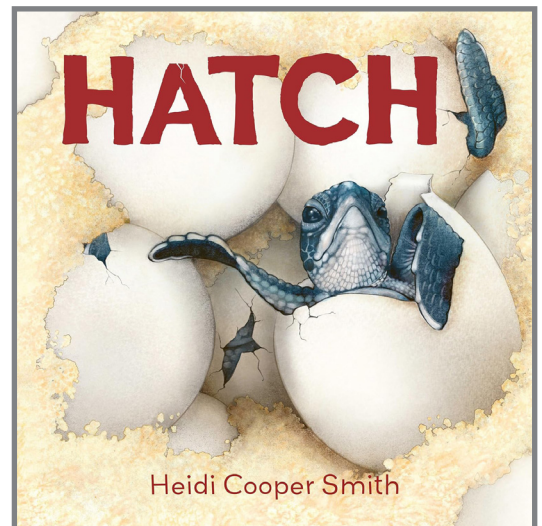
Hatch

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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SCIS: 5522414

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

What kind of animals lay eggs? Where do they lay them, and how do they look after them?

Meet some of Australia's incredible egg-laying animals. Starting at the sea, *Hatch* takes us on a journey inland and underground, to the treetops high above, and back down to a waterhole, till finally we reach the sea once more.

With detailed and vibrant illustrations, *Hatch* provides a glimpse of these amazing egg-laying creatures, the unique habitats in which they live and how they look after their young.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Heidi Cooper Smith has always held a love and fascination for animals, particularly those that could be found in her own backyard. Growing up in the bush on a diet of David Attenborough documentaries, she wants to help foster this appreciation in the next generation.

THEMES

- Egg-laying creatures
- Animal diversity
- Habitats and nesting

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- You are about to read a book all about eggs. What animals can you name that lay eggs? Do you know any others? Let's make a list and keep an eye out for any others as we read.
- What do eggs look like?
- Do you know what eggs are? Where have you seen an egg? What shape do you think eggs are? How big do you think eggs are? What colour are eggs? Read the book and pay attention to all the different eggs you see throughout the story.

AFTER READING

Science

- There are many animals that lay eggs in this story. Can you name them all? Do you think there is a reason why so many different species of animals, in so many different environments, lay eggs to produce young rather than give

birth to live young?

- Many animals use a variety of nests to lay their eggs in. What are some of the nests you can remember from the story? Why are nests important and why are there different kinds?
- A usual definition of a mammal is an animal that breathes air, produces milk to feed their young, has fur and gives birth to live young. Platypuses and echidnas are mammals, but what makes them different to all other mammals?
- The author describes most of the animals looking after their young as females, but did you notice any males in the story looking after the eggs? Which animal was it? Why was this animal looking after the nest?
- The following experiment allows you to observe and discuss the impact that something acidic, like vinegar, can have on an egg.
 - Place a fresh egg into a jar of vinegar.
 - Leave the egg in the vinegar for 1 to 2 days.
 - Step 3: Remove the egg and gently rinse with water.
 - Step 4: Carefully feel the egg and compare it to a fresh egg that has not been sitting in vinegar, and discuss.

Discuss the following questions after completing the above experiment:

- What might happen to the eggs in the ocean if the ocean becomes too acidic?
- What can we do to prevent oceans from becoming too acidic?
- There are many different species in this story, from monotremes to amphibians, insects, arachnids, birds, reptiles, crustaceans and molluscs. For each of these species, eggs play an important part in their life cycle. Select one of the animals from the story and research their unique life cycle. Use your research to describe and illustrate the life cycle on a poster to be displayed in the classroom.

English

- The author uses a lot of alliteration in this story. Alliteration is the repetition of sounds at the beginning of words in the same sentence. For example, 'murky mangroves'. What other examples of alliteration do you remember from the story? Why do you think the author used this literary device?
 - Ask students to choose an animal from the story and use its name, parts of its habitat, behaviour and diet to create a passage about the animal that is full of alliteration. Remember to use nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs to create more alliteration.
- The sea turtles make an appearance at the very beginning and the very end of the book. Why do you think the author chose to do this? How does it help the story?
- The author uses lots of adjectives to describe the different eggs throughout the story. Make a list. What inference can we make about eggs from all the different adjectives on our list?
- Ask students to select one of the animals from the story and write about their life after hatching. The students should first research the life cycle, diet, habitat, behaviour and threats of their chosen animal, then use this information to write a narrative that follows the life of the animal after it has hatched from its shell and is faced with the big wide world.

The Arts

- The illustrator of *Hatch* created some incredible endpapers. Endpapers are the first and last pages of a book (on the inside front and back covers). They may often be left blank, but some authors and illustrators choose to include images related to the story on these pages. What do the endpapers of this book show? How do you think this helps the story?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

- The eggs of Australian animals have long since been an important part of Indigenous culture. From being an important food source, to being used for art and storytelling, they hold a lot of cultural importance. There are many rules and practices that govern how and when eggs of different animals can be collected. Why do you think this is?

AUTHOR OF NOTES

DAVID GULLAN