

Name: _____

Incredible Lungfish

By Guy Belleranti



Lungfish are among the world's oldest and most unusual fish. The six remaining species have relatives that lived hundreds of millions of years ago!

Lungfish live in several parts of the world. One species lives in Queensland, Australia. A second lives in South America. The other four live in Africa.

These freshwater fish live in shallow

The South American and African lungfish have two lungs. Their gills are weak, and they must periodically come to the surface to gulp air. These lungfish can survive much longer than the Australian lungfish during dry periods.

During a dry period, the fish buries itself in mud. Then it creates mucus to



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However, in dry periods the water level in the fish's habitat drops. Then, the fish must swim to the surface to breathe through its lung. The fish can survive several days out of water as long as it doesn't dry out.

However, it happens when the weather is hot and dry instead of when it's cold. During estivation, the lungfish survives by breathing through its lungs until rain refills the waterways.



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1. Which statement about lungfish is true?
 - a. Lungfish live on every continent.
 - b. Lungfish do not have gills.
 - c. Lungfish do not need water to live.
 - d. Lungfish are able to breathe oxygen in the air.



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- a. Both happen during hot, dry seasons.
 - b. Both are states of dormancy in certain animals.
 - c. Both require animals to consume large amounts of oxygen.
 - d. Both are states in which animals have a rapid heart rate.

4. How is estivation different to hibernation?
 - a. Estivation occurs when the weather is dry. Hibernation occurs when the weather is cold.
 - b. Estivation occurs for many months, but hibernation only occurs for a few days at a time.
 - c. Only fish experience estivation. Only mammals and reptiles hibernate.

ANSWER KEY

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