Name:	
-------	--

A Horse Is a Horse Unless It's a Seahorse

by Kelly Hashway

Seahorses get their names because of their profiles. From the side view, a seahorse resembles a horse. Of course, a seahorse really isn't much like a horse at all. Maybe that's because it's a fish. But oddly enough, this type of fish is a poor swimmer.

Unlike other fish, seahorses swim vertically, or upright. While they use fins to move through the water, they aren't able to maneuver as well as fish that swim horizontally. Seahorses use their dorsal fins on their backs. But there is a big difference between the dorsal fin on a seahorse and the dorsal fin on a shark. Seahorses flutter their dorsal fin, sometimes up to 35 times per second. They also use small fins behind their eyes called pectoral fins to steer. They don't have a caudal fin, which is the tail fin you see on other



types of fish. This is why you typically find seahorses resting with their tails wrapped around coral and sea grass. If seahorses are caught in rough water, they can actually die of exhaustion since they aren't good swimmers.

Seahorses share many characteristics with other animals. Their eyes can move independently of each other, like a chameleon's. Also like a chameleon, seahorses can change color. They can use this color changing ability to blend into their surroundings and escape predators. They can range in color, spanning white, red, yellow, black, brown, and gray.

Male seahorses have pouches like kangaroos, where they carry their young. Like aardvarks, seahorses have long snouts, which suck up food. They are big eaters, grazing continuously throughout the day on plankton, crustaceans, and shrimp. Seahorses are even like stegosauruses in that they have bone plates covering their bodies. These bone plates are arranged like rings. This acts like a suit of armor to protect the seahorse from predators, but it also limits the seahorse's flexibility.

These amazing creatures can be found all around the world. And while they share features with many different animals, the seahorse is definitely a creature all its own.

Name:	
-------	--

A Horse Is a Horse Unless It's a Seahorse

Unless	t's a Se		1997 E
Where is a seahor	se's pectoral fin Ic	cated?	
a. on it's bo	ack	b. on its tail	
c. on its no	se	d. behind its eyes	
How does a seaho survive?	orse's ability to cho	ange color help it	
Name three thing	s seahorses eat.		
Reread the follow underlined word.	ing sentence fron	n the passage and choos	e the best definition for the
•	use fins to move to sh that swim horize	hrough the water, they ar ontally.	en't able to <u>maneuver</u>
The underlined wo	ord means		
a. bump in	-		
b. feel watc. wiggle it			
	a quick or skillful r	move	
What type of pass	age is this?		
a. science	fiction	b. realistic fiction	
c. non-ficti	on	d. fantasy	

Super Teacher Worksheets - <u>www.superteacherworksheets.com</u>

Name:

A Horse is a Horse Unless it's a Seahorse

Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



1.	of i s hint: side views	
2.	d l hint: strangely	
3.	o r o n t l y hint: left-to-right	
4.	h a c t e i tcs hint: traits; properties	
5.	a l e o hint: species of lizard that can change color	
6.	r a i g hint: eating continually throughout the day	
7.	l e i i l y hint: ability to move and bend	
	Super Teacher Worksheets - <u>www.super</u> t	eacherworksheets.com

Name:	
A Horse Is a Horse	
Unless it's a Seahorse	
In the article, "A Horse Is a Horse Unless It's a Seahorse", you learned many facts about seahorses.	
Write paragraph about seahorses. Include some sentences that are opinions and some that are facts. Underline the facts with a green crayon. Underline the opinions with a blue crayon.	

ANSWER KEY

A Horse is a Horse Unless it's a Seahorse

by Kelly Hashway

4	\ \ / !	seahorse's	L	C:	10 -
	Whara is a	CAMARCA	nactoral	TID IOCOT	$\Delta \alpha c$
		3001101303	DECIDIO	III IOCUI	

a. on it's back

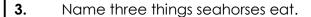
b. on its tail

c. on its nose

d. behind its eyes



It can blend into its surroundings so predators cannot see it.



plankton, crustaceans, and shrimp

4. Reread the following sentence from the passage and choose the best definition for the underlined word.

While they use fins to move through the water, they aren't able to <u>maneuver</u> as well as fish that swim horizontally.

The underlined word means... d

- **a.** bump into objects
- **b.** feel water currents
- **c.** wiggle its tail
- d. perform a quick or skillful move
- 5. What type of passage is this? c
 - **a.** science fiction
- **b.** realistic fiction

c. non-fiction

d. fantasy



Mariana		
Name:		

A Horse Is a Horse Unless It's a Seahorse

Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



1. profiles profiles

hint: side views

2. oddly

hint: strangely

3. <u>horizontally</u> <u>horizontally</u>

hint: left-to-right

4. <u>characteristics</u> <u>characteristics</u>

hint: traits; properties

5. <u>c h a m e l e o n</u> <u>chameleon</u>

hint: species of lizard that can change color

6. <u>g r a z i n g</u> <u>grazing</u>

hint: eating continually throughout the day

7. <u>f | e x i b i | i t y</u> <u>flexibility</u>

hint: ability to move and bend