

FLEYDO ENGLISH SCHOOL

A1 Reading Challenge

Animals That Glow in the Dark

Some animals make their own light. They live in the sea, in forests, and in caves.

Level	A1 (Beginner)
Age Group	Teens (11-16)
Topic	True Stories
Duration	~10 minutes
Vocabulary	12 words
Quiz	5 questions

Article

Look at the night sky. The stars give **light**. The moon gives **light** too. But some animals can make light with their own bodies! They **glow** in the **dark**. This is very special. Scientists call it bioluminescence. It is a long word. It means "living light." Many animals do this. They live in the sea, in forests, and in **dark** caves. Let's look at some of them.

Fireflies in the Forest

A **firefly** is a small flying insect. It is not a fly. It is a beetle. Fireflies are very small. They are about one centimetre long. In summer evenings, they fly in forests and gardens. Their bodies make a soft yellow-green **light**. The **light** comes from the back part of the **firefly**. It turns on and off. Why do they **glow**? They want to find a partner. The boy fireflies fly in the air. The girl fireflies sit on the grass. They send light messages to each other. It is like a secret code. Some fireflies blink fast. Some blink slowly. Each kind has its own pattern.

Glowing Animals in the Sea

The sea is full of glowing animals. Many **jellyfish** can make **light**. When you touch them, they **glow** blue or green. Some small sea creatures **glow** too. They are called dinoflagellates. When boats move through the water at night, the water sometimes shines. It looks like blue stars in the sea! This happens because of these tiny animals. There are special beaches in the world where you can see this. One famous beach is in Puerto Rico. Another one is in the Maldives. The water glows blue when you walk in it. It is **amazing** to see.

The Deep, Dark Ocean

The **deep ocean** is very, very **dark**. The sun cannot reach down there. It is more than one kilometre **deep**. But many animals live there. About 80 percent of them can **glow**! There are glowing fish, glowing squid, and glowing shrimp. The anglerfish has a long stick on its head. At the end of the stick, there is a small **light**. The **light** is like a lamp. Small fish come close to look at the light. Then the anglerfish eats them! It is a clever trick. Some squid send out clouds of glowing liquid. This helps them hide from **danger**. The big fish cannot see them in the bright cloud.

Glowing Mushrooms

Did you know that some mushrooms **glow** too? They grow on old wood in **dark**, wet forests. There are about 80 kinds of glowing mushrooms in the world. Most of them are green. They are not very bright. You can only see them at night. People in old times saw them and thought they were magic. Today, you can find them in countries like Brazil, Vietnam, and Japan. Some **forest** paths in Japan **glow** at night because of these

mushrooms. It looks like a fairy tale.

How Do They Make Light?

How do animals make **light**? It is a special **chemical** reaction. Inside the animal's body, there are two things. One is called luciferin. The other is called luciferase. When they meet, they make **light**. The light is cold. It does not give heat. This is different from a normal light bulb. A bulb gets very hot. But the light from animals is cool. Some animals can turn their light on and off. Other animals **glow** all the time. Different animals make different colours. Some **glow** green. Some glow blue. Some glow yellow. A few even glow red.

Why Do Animals Glow?

Animals **glow** for different reasons. Some animals **glow** to talk to each other. Fireflies do this. They send **light** messages to find love. Some animals glow to find food. The anglerfish does this. Its **light** brings small fish close. Some animals glow to scare other animals. They flash a bright light. The big animal gets a surprise and goes away. Some animals glow to hide. They make their bodies the same colour as the light from above. This makes them hard to see from below. It is like wearing a clever costume.

Can People See This?

Yes! You can see glowing animals in many places. You can watch fireflies in summer. They are common in many countries. You can visit a glowing beach. There are some in the United States, Japan, and the Maldives. You can also see glowing creatures in big aquariums. Many city aquariums have a special **dark** room. You can see **jellyfish** and **deep-sea** animals there. They **glow** softly behind glass. It is like looking at the stars under the sea. Glowing animals are one of the most **amazing** things in nature. They show us that the world has a lot of magic. You just need to look in the right place — in the **dark**.

Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
glow	to give a soft light
dark	with no light; not bright
light	the bright energy that helps us see
forest	a big place with many trees
ocean	a very big sea
deep	going down a long way from the top
danger	something that can hurt you
jellyfish	a soft sea animal with no bones
firefly	a small flying insect that glows
chemical	a special thing that makes other things change
mushroom	a small plant that grows in dark, wet places
amazing	very special and wonderful

Comprehension Quiz

1. What is the name for animals that make their own light?

- A) Photosynthesis
- B) Bioluminescence
- C) Hibernation
- D) Migration

2. Where do fireflies live?

- A) In the deep ocean
- B) In the desert
- C) In forests and gardens
- D) On mountains with snow

3. Why do fireflies glow?

- A) To help them fly faster
- B) To find a partner
- C) To keep warm
- D) To scare birds

4. Why do many deep-sea fish make light?

- A) Because they like to dance
- B) Because the deep ocean is very dark
- C) Because they are cold
- D) Because they want to be pretty

5. What colour are most glowing mushrooms?

- A) Red
- B) Blue
- C) Green
- D) Pink

Answer Key

#	Answer	Question
1	B	1. What is the name for animals that make their own light?
2	C	2. Where do fireflies live?
3	B	3. Why do fireflies glow?
4	B	4. Why do many deep-sea fish make light?
5	C	5. What colour are most glowing mushrooms?