

May 2018



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We've Been Busy!

We were busy this school year (often too busy to send a newsletter!) developing a new product designed to make your job easier as you help students read and comprehend informational texts. Last fall, StarrMatica was awarded a Small Business Innovation Research grant to develop customizable science informational texts.

The texts, written by *National Geographic for Kids* author, Sarah Wassner Flynn, address the Next Generation Science Standards. The customization process for each text allows you to address learning goals specific to your classroom and to create a text that is at the reading level (Lexile level) of each of your students. This helps you to individualize informational text comprehension instruction for your students and to save time by combining ELA and science instruction. The prototype was tested successfully in classrooms this spring. Funding to complete the product is pending, and it is our hope to have the full library ready for the 2019-2020 school year. If you would like to have a demonstration of the prototype, please send me an email and we can set up a time to meet online!



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You have the ability to customize graphic aids, text features, comprehension supports, Lexile level, audio support, and quiz questions.

Amazing Adaptations!

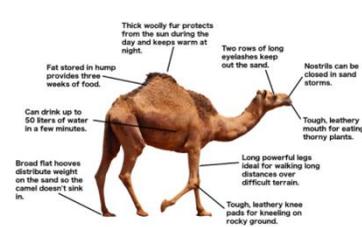
by Sarah Wassner Flynn

Do you ever wonder why a bear hibernates or why a chameleon can change the color of its scaly skin? These are called adaptations. All animals are born with some sort of an adaptation. This is an ability or trait that helps them thrive in the wild.

Sleep Tight

Every winter, a black bear will snuggle up in a nest and enter a deep sleep—or hibernation—that lasts for months. This is a natural way for the bear to stay protected from the cold weather. It also preserves its energy so that it doesn't go hungry. During the cold winter months, food is tough to come by.

Built to Last



Other Animals That Hibernates



All animals are born with physical features that help them survive in their habitat. A camel has two rows of long eyelashes that prevent the desert sand from blowing in its eyes. It also has thick pads at the bottom of its hooves that keep it from sinking into the sand as it walks. A camel can also store fat in its hump. This helps it survive for weeks without food and water.

Blending In

Some animals use their looks to avoid attack



from predators. The bright white arctic fox is hard to spot against a background of snow. This keeps it hidden from bigger animals like polar bears. Many butterflies have spots on their wings that confuse predators, like birds, keeping them safe from attack. A chameleon can change colors to communicate with other chameleons and warn them about danger nearby.

NEW Resources

K-2 and 3-5 Math and ELA

As you know, our library is continually growing. In the last month, we have added over one hundred new math resources and over the summer we will be adding over one hundred new science and ELA resources. If you have resource requests, please email them to us before your summer break so we can have updates ready for you in the fall! Here are a few of our favorites from this month:

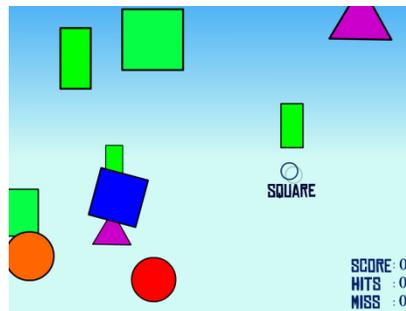


[Marble Math Addition](#)

Use marbles to figure out the answers to each addition problem. There are five levels of difficulty.

[Fraction Bars Game](#)

Use fraction bars to create the fraction shown. Choose from one whole, unit fractions, non-unit fractions, and improper fractions.

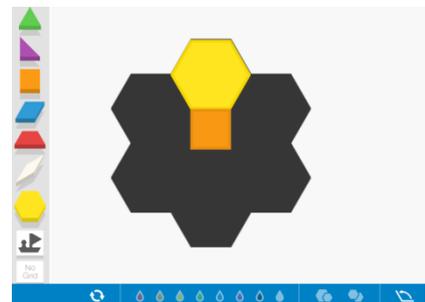


[Shapes Splat!](#)

Choose a level and then splat the shapes that are named.

[Pattern Shapes](#)

Use pattern blocks to make a shape of your own or to fill a shape outline.



Flash Update

You have most likely noticed that many browsers now need your permission to allow Flash to run. All of StarrMatica's content, and much of the content we link to, is programmed in Flash. This is because it was the best programming language for interactive content for many years. Most of the time, you simply click the dialog box or icon that appears and choose to allow Flash to run. Your tech person should be able to help you with Flash questions; however, if you get stuck, please give us a call and we can walk you through the process of adding StarrMatica to your browser's "run Flash" list.