



The Marine Iguana – Higher Level Comprehension

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDAuIF_aRY

BBC Earth “A Perfect Planet”



Once you’ve finished, please take a photograph of your work and email it to your teacher!

1) Why is it surprising that the marine iguanas live on this island?

2) Why do the cormorants bring seaweed ashore?

3) Pause at 48 seconds. Pick a word to explain how you think first the cormorant and then the marine iguana feel at this moment. Explain your two choices.



The cormorant feels _____ because _____

The iguana feels _____ because _____

4) Sir David Attenborough says, “Both of these species have **evolved** here.”

“Evolved” means _____

5) Find and copy a phrase which tells you that the cormorant and marine iguana don’t always get along.

6) What is unusual about where the marine iguana gets its food?

7) Find and copy a phrase which shows that the marine iguana is dependent on the seaweed for survival.

8) Sir David Attenborough explains that the seaweed “grows in **abundance** here...”

Can you think of a synonym (similar meaning) and an antonym (opposite) for the word “abundance”?

Synonym: _____ Antonym: _____

9) What is the name of the ocean current which brings the nutrients that enable the seaweed to grow?

10) How long can the marine iguana spend underwater? _____

11) Sir David Attenborough says, "Any longer than that and his muscles will **seize up**." Can you explain what the phrase "seize up" means? What effect would this have on the marine iguana?

"Seize up" means _____

If its muscles seized up, the marine iguana would _____

12) Which class of animal is unable to handle cold temperatures well? _____

13) Order the following events from 1 – 5. One has been done for you.

- A marine iguana attempts to steal some seaweed. _____
- A marine iguana stands on a cliff edge. 3
- A marine iguana searches for food in the sea. _____
- A marine iguana is shown diving into the sea. _____
- A cormorant brings seaweed ashore to build a nest. _____

14) Now watch this clip "The Unsinkable Lizard" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry2ipjR3HII> about a different reptile – the pygmy gecko. Write down five key facts which you learn about this tiny Amazonian creature.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____
