

1. Unusual Pets

Some people are very adventurous when it comes to choosing a pet – none more so than a Costa Rican man who adopted a sixteen-foot crocodile. The exotic pets on offer in Britain tend to be smaller and less intimidating – mice, tortoises, lizards, and tropical fish, for example – but some of them are very unusual indeed. For example, if your ideal companion is an insect that makes an entertaining noise, you could get some Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches...

Level

Upper intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Give your students five minutes to read through Worksheet A and to remember as many of the details as they can. Tell them they are going to do a gap-fill exercise based on the text, but they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
2. After five minutes stop your students. Ask them to turn over their worksheets.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B. Tell them that by filling in the gaps they will be able to find the name of another kind of exotic pet found in some homes in Britain (though most people would be horrified by the idea of letting the animal anywhere near them). Divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to answer the questions and write the answers in the grid.
4. Check the answers in open class. If the questions have all been answered as below, the word *tarantula* should be written in the box.

Answers

1. Tortoise
2. Appetite
3. Rats
4. Alone
5. Nursed
6. Tropical
7. Ugly
8. Larger
9. Attention

2. Related Websites

Take a closer look at some of the creatures mentioned in the text

http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_1727856.html

Short text about Alli Shedden and his unusual pet – plus a great photo.

<http://www.angelfire.com/in/ghcfaq/>

Everything you ever wanted to know about Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches.

<http://www.thebts.co.uk/>

The British Tarantula Society website – lots of information.