

Unit Guide

Biodiversity: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly

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Why should a repulsive, disgusting, animal that makes my life either more difficult or may even put my life in danger exist? Why can't all animals in this world be pleasing to behold, or at least not bother me in my life? Have you ever asked this question, why does this animal exist? What on earth is the reason for this animal? I have asked this question and my students have also asked this question. I have often been at a loss to answer it. There are some animals that I value precisely because they feed on the animals I detest! In this unit students will explore some animals that they find unappealing. By conducting research, students will discover the unique adaptations that such animals possess - their structures and behaviors that might make them a little more appealing. Through analysis of their research, students will evaluate their adaptations and actually promote their animal using persuasive strategies.