

Blobfish are the ugliest animals

17th September, 2013



Most people do not know what a blobfish is. It is the world's ugliest animal. It is also the new mascot of the Ugly Animal Preservation

Society (UAPS). The UAPS asked 11 celebrities and comedians to make a short video on what they thought was the ugliest creature on Earth. Thousands of people voted to decide the winner. UAPS president Simon Watt said he didn't want to use a cute animal as the society's mascot. He wanted people to know that not-so-cute animals are also in danger. Mr Watt said: "We've needed an ugly face for endangered animals for a long time...For too long the cute and fluffy animals have taken the limelight." He thinks the blobfish will make people remember the uglier animals.

Blobfish live in the seas and oceans near Australia and New Zealand. They stay largely on the seabed or ocean floor between 600 to 1,200 metres deep. They can grow up to 30 centimetres long. They have very large heads, small bodies and thin tails. Their name comes from the fact that they look like a large blob of jelly. This is because they have no muscles. They float in the water and swallow things that swim past them, like small crabs and shellfish. Even though humans do not eat blobfish (they are inedible), fishermen accidentally kill thousands each year. They are caught in the nets of fishing boats. Scientists are worried that this will put the blobfish on the list of endangered animals.

Sources: *National Geographic / Nature World News / Wikipedia*

Writing

Compare and contrast a blobfish and a cute, fluffy kitten.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

mascot / animal preservation / celebrities / voted / winner / cute animal / fluffy / oceans / jelly / muscles / inedible / fishermen / accidentally / worried / endangered

True / False

- The blobfish is the mascot of a group that helps animals. T / F
- Eleven scientists made a video about blobfish. T / F
- Millions of people voted to decide which animal was ugliest. T / F
- A president said the blobfish will help people to not forget ugly animals. T / F
- Blobfish usually swim near the surface of seas and oceans. T / F
- The biggest blobfish ever found was 3 centimetres long. T / F
- Blobfish have big heads and thin tails. T / F
- Scientists are worried that the blobfish is in danger. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. preservation | a. uneatable |
| 2. celebrities | b. soft |
| 3. creature | c. famous people |
| 4. cute | d. at risk |
| 5. fluffy | e. protection |
| 6. largely | f. eat |
| 7. swallow | g. adorable |
| 8. inedible | h. trapped |
| 9. caught | i. animal |
| 10. endangered | j. mainly |

Discussion – Student A

- Would you like a blobfish as a pet?
- Would a Pixar/Disney movie about blobfish make them cuter?
- What do you think of the name "blobfish"?
- What do you think is the world's ugliest animal?
- What can we do to help protect blobfish from being more endangered?
- What endangered animal are you most worried about?
- Why do you think blobfish are inedible?
- What questions would you like to ask Simon Watt?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Most people do not know | a. and thin tails |
| 2. It is also the new | b. the uglier animals |
| 3. Thousands of people voted | c. or ocean floor |
| 4. cute and | d. mascot |
| 5. make people remember | e. animals |
| 6. They stay largely on the seabed | f. to decide the winner |
| 7. small bodies | g. what a blobfish is |
| 8. This is because they have | h. (they are inedible) |
| 9. humans do not eat blobfish | i. fluffy animals |
| 10. the list of endangered | j. no muscles |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Is it good to have a society to protect ugly animals?
- Is it unfair to say an animal is ugly?
- What do you think is the cutest animal?
- What is the best animal to be mascot of a preservation society?
- Should fashion magazines also use not-so-cute models?
- Is there too much "cute" in this world?
- Will you remember the blobfish?

Spelling

- the new tmoasc
- Ugly Animal Preservation ceSioty
- 11 elbisiertec and comedians
- the ugliest aeetruc on Earth
- agnedenred animals
- taken the liigtmhel
- seas and oensca
- they have no sceumls
- olslwaw things that swim past them
- humans do not eat blobfish (they are idenbeil)
- fishermen cicetyaldlna kill thousands
- Scientists are ewidorr

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. c	3. i	4. g	5. b
6. j	7. f	8. a	9. h	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Blobfish

You think blobfish are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not cute about their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): caterpillars, lions or pigeons.

Role B – Caterpillars

You think caterpillars are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not cute about their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): blobfish, lions or pigeons.

Role C – Lions

You think lions are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not cute about their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): caterpillars, blobfish or pigeons.

Role D – Pigeons

You think pigeons are the cutest animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not cute about their animals. Also, tell the others which is the least cute of these (and why): caterpillars, lions or blobfish.

Speaking – Cute animals

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the cutest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| • Frog | • Octopus |
| • Caterpillar | • Eagle |
| • Bat | • Wolf |
| • Lion | • Whale |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.