TIME EDGE
EDITION 6–8
TEACHER'S GUIDE
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Canyon Creatures



In September, scientists announced the discovery of 57 underwater species, thanks to a 2025 deep-sea mission.

LEXILE: 990L
SCIENCE (NGSS) STANDARD: Biologial Evolution
COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.7, W.6-8.8

ENGAGE THE READER

Before the lesson, compile photos of various marine animals ranging from sea stars and urchins to whales and sharks. Choose about 15 animals. Partner students, and have them categorize or group the animals in any way they think makes sense. They can make as many groups as they want, as long as each group comprises at least two animals. Have volunteers share their categories and discuss their reasoning. Explain that scientists have specific ways of classifying animals. Today, students will read about some marine species that are being newly classified.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What was SuBastian's purpose? Was it successful?
- How can scientists tell if an animal is new to science? Why might scientists want to discover new species?
- Do you think the deep sea is an important place to explore? Why or why not?

EXTEND LEARNING

After reading, ask if students remember, from science class, how animals are classified (*kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species*). If not, remind them that animals are classified into seven or more groups, each more specific than the one above it. The members of each group have traits in common. You can use the classification of Loki (mentioned in the sidebar) as an example. Pull up the chart at *ti.me/AnimalClassificationDoc* and go through it together.

To learn more about animal classification, have students choose a marine animal and research the groups it belongs to, and the characteristics of each. When they're done, they can play a guessing game. Have a student start by describing the characteristics of the phylum to which their animal belongs. They can get more specific, until someone guesses the animal. Did anyone have an animal in one of the same groups? They can start where their peer left off and describe the similarities and differences of their related animal, until someone guesses it.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

Make a copy of the Google Form quiz for "Canyon Creatures" here.

1. D (RI.1) **2. D** (RI.2) **3. A** (RI.6) **4. B** (RI.4) **5. C** (RI.5) **6. C** (RI.7) **7.** Answers will vary. (W.1)