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TRAINING YOUR COMPREHENSION – READING –

ON TV NEXT WEEK – HIDDEN KINGDOMS!

Are you going to watch “Hidden Kingdoms” on television next week? It’s going to be a wildlife series with a difference so don’t miss it!

Wildlife programmes usually follow the lives of huge animals like elephants, bears, whales and eagles. But in “Hidden Kingdoms”, you are going to see the lives of some tiny animals. Modern technology is going to show the world from their level. For example, the first programme is going to follow the life of a sengi mouse in Africa. You are going to watch the mouse from a camera that moved right beside it. You are going to see the fear in its big eyes as it tried to run from a big lizard behind it. The, in the US, you are going to watch another tiny mouse, a grasshopper mouse, fight a scorpion.

The BBC produced the series and it is both educational and beautifully filmed. The narrator is the famous actor and presenter, Stephen Fry. At the end of the programme you are going to learn how the cameramen filmed the animals. They are going to talk about how they filmed the sengi mouse while it was running like the wind away from the lizard. They dug big holes in the ground for the cameramen. The cameras moved along tracks like little trains. The mouse was fast and the cameramen’s eyes couldn’t see it. But the camera could!. Their film is going to show us the lizard’s mouth, big and wide right above us. It is going to show us the sting from the scorpion’s tail hitting the grasshopper mouse again and again. Is the lizard going to eat the sengi? Is the scorpion going to kill the grasshopper mouse? I’m not going to tell you. Watch the programme next week and find out! I promise that you’re going to love it.

1. Match the underlined words in the text with these definitions.

- 1 Not see.....
- 2 You feel this when you are frightened.....
- 3 Someone who explains what is happening that you don’t see.....
- 4 Teaches us a lot.....
- 5 A very large sea animal.....
- 6 Say you will definitely do something.....

2. Look at the picture and the title of the text, and choose the correct answer.

The text is about...

- a. An advert for a wildlife book.
- b. A review of a wildlife TV series.



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- c. The story of a mouse.

3. Choose the best answers.

1. Most wildlife programmes ...
 - a. Are not educational
 - b. Are different from "Hidden Kingdoms".
 - c. Only show small animals.
2. The series is about...
 - a. Only the biggest and strongest wild animals.
 - b. Amazing animals eating their food.
 - c. Wildlife that is too small and fast for us to see.
3. Stephen Fry is ...
 - a. A BBC producer.
 - b. A wildlife teacher.
 - c. An actor and narrator.
4. The cameramen had to ...
 - a. Hide from the biggest animals.
 - b. Film an animal that is very small and very fast.
 - c. Travel to and from the area.
5. The writer makes us want to watch the programme because ...
 - a. He says it's educational for school children.
 - b. We want to know what is going to happen to the mice.
 - c. He gives some examples of the beauty of the filming.