Lesson 6

Vocabulary in Context

- Read each Context Card.
- Use a Vocabulary word to tell about something you did.

shaped
Have you ever seen a home shaped like this? It is curved like a ball.

branches
Tree branches high above the ground are a good home for a sloth.

TARGET VOCABULARY

shaped
branches
pond
beaks
deepest
break
hang
winding

Vocabulary Reader
Context Cards
**pond**

Turtles make their home in a pond, or small lake.

**beaks**

These birds use their beaks to build their home.

**deepest**

The deepest part of the ocean is this eel’s home.

**break**

This home won’t break! It is made of strong rock.

**hang**

These bats hang upside down in their cave.

**winding**

Some animal homes have long, winding tunnels that twist and turn.
Background

**TARGET VOCABULARY** Animal Homes Some birds build their homes with their beaks. Some insects build nests shaped like balls. They hang from branches. Often bats live in the deepest parts of caves. A frog may live by a pond. A clam lives in a shell that other animals cannot break easily. A groundhog digs a burrow that has winding tunnels. No matter where it lives, an animal feels safe in its home.

Hornet
Hornets build nests in tree branches.

Honey Bee
Honey bees live in hives. Inside the hives bees store honey.
Comprehension

**TARGET SKILL**  Text and Graphic Features

The author chose the title, *Animals Building Homes*, to tell you the topic, or what the book is about. She also used words, headings, and photos to make her ideas clear. Use a chart like this to list some features. Then tell why you think the author used them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text or Graphic Feature</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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**TARGET STRATEGY**  Question

Think of the questions you have about how animals build their homes. Then look for some answers by reading the text and studying the graphic features in the article.
MEET THE AUTHOR

Can you guess why Wendy Perkins has been called a “walking animal encyclopedia”? It’s because her mind is filled with facts and information about all kinds of animals.

Ms. Perkins has written nonfiction books about animal eyes, ears, feet, feathers, noses, teeth, and tails. She also writes articles for *Highlights for Children* and a magazine put out by the San Diego Zoo called *Zoonooz*. 
Essential Question
How can chapter headings help you?
A beaver is hard at work. It gnaws on a tree trunk. Soon, the tree falls. The beaver floats the log to a pond. There, the beaver builds a lodge. The beaver piles up logs. It fills the cracks between the logs with mud and grass. The lodge keeps the beaver safe and warm.
Safe at Home

Most animals need a home. Homes keep animals safe from predators, rain, snow, or the hot sun. Some animals live in their homes for life. Other animals live in their homes long enough to raise their offspring or survive hot or cold weather.

STOP AND THINK
Text and Graphic Features
Why are some of the words in dark print?
Building Nests

Many animals live in nests. A hummingbird builds a small cup-shaped nest. The nest is made of moss and bits of spiderweb.
A mouse makes a grass nest in the shape of a ball. The mouse hides its nest in tall grass or in a tunnel under the ground.
Careful Builders

Some animals put a lot of work into building their homes. Weaver birds make nests that hang from tree branches. The birds carefully weave grass and leaves together. Weaver birds use their feet and beaks to tie knots in the grass.
Working Together

Animals can work together to build homes. Termites build mounds made out of mud mixed with saliva. Other animals cannot easily break through the hard mud.

STOP AND THINK
Question What question about how termites work together does this page answer?
Polyps are animals that make coral reefs. A polyp builds a limestone cup around its body for protection. The cups of the polyps grow together to make a coral reef.
Making a Burrow

Burrows are holes in the ground where some animals live. Gophers use their teeth and paws to dig long, winding tunnels. They make rooms in the deepest parts of the tunnels. The gophers hide their offspring and food in these rooms.
Home Improvement

Some animals live in homes made by other animals. Chickadees use tree holes made by woodpeckers. Chickadees bring grass and moss into the hole. They build a nest for their chicks.

STOP AND THINK
Author's Craft  Why does the author name this page “Home Improvement”?
Building a Home

Most animals need homes where they can rest and raise their offspring. Homes also keep animals safe from predators. Beavers build lodges. Mice make nests. Gophers dig burrows. How does a polar bear make its den?
Write to Describe

What wild animal do you want to learn about? Use books and other sources to find out about the animal you chose. Write a few sentences that describe the animal’s home.

Share your work with classmates. SCIENCE.

Hunt for Headings

Look back through Animals Building Homes. How did the headings help you understand what you read? How would the book be different with no headings? Work with a partner to answer these questions. TEXT AND GRAPHIC FEATURES.