



Challenge
&
Enrichment
Activities

Subject: Science

Topic Title: The Spider who Loves Mozart.



Summer 2

Your Task

Animal behaviour is fascinating. Some of it is odd but normally with good purpose. What is the reason behind a distinctive habit or action? Do we know all the answers?

Listed below are questions about animal behaviour.

- ❖ For each one, write down as many explanations as you can through a 'brainstorming' process.
- ❖ Now become more critical – indicate which explanation you believe to be the most likely reason for the behaviour, stating why.
- ❖ Research the 12 situations and see what the experts say. You will find that in some cases there is genuine doubt.

The questions

- 1 Why do water voles construct entrances to their burrows that are narrow and restricted?
- 2 Why are spiders fond of music?
- 3 Why do hares 'box'?
- 4 Why is the badger a social animal, which is not typical of fresh-eating carnivores?
- 5 Why do otters slap the water with their tails?
- 6 Why do bees dance?
- 7 Why do lizards sunbathe?
- 8 Why do moles dig numerous burrows in their fortress (home)?
- 9 Why do bats hang upside down when at rest?
- 10 Why do deer rub antlers up and down trees?
- 11 Why do foxes make spine chilling calls, especially on winter days and nights?
- 12 Why do hedgehogs 'self-anoint', that is, produce large quantities of frothy saliva, which they spread over their spines?

Gifted & Talented Extreme Challenge:

Research other fascinating examples of animal behaviour and set them as questions for other members of your class.

