



Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County  
Superintendent of Schools  
*Transforming lives through education*



**Thursday, June 25**  
**12:00pm**

**Nature, "Nature's Biggest Beasts"**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.**

Discover the ingenious strategies that nature's biggest beasts employ to conquer their environments, from the Komodo dragon with a deadly bite to the tallest giraffe to the bird-eating armored ground cricket. These are their epic survival stories.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

**Question Box 1**

- How does the narrator in this episode give the listener a sense of the blue whale's size? What words that were used helped you to understand just how big a blue whale is?
- Why does the narrator refer to the blue whale as a "floating vacuum cleaner"?
- The tallest creature alive is the giraffe, list this animal's "impressive stats" as referred to by the narrator.
- What characteristics of the giraffe allow it to reach food that other animals can't reach?
- What does a giraffe eat? How much? How long does it take to eat a daily meal?
- Describe the giraffe's "clever system" imitated by NASA for space suits that allow it to stoop down to drink water without getting a massive headache.
- How long has the Komodo dragon species existed on Earth?
- Explain the statement, "Their survival relies on satisfying their beastly hunger."
- Explain in detail, how a Komodo dragon takes down a meal that is 10 times its size?
- Why does a Komodo dragon have to "practice patience"?
- List the many adaptations of the Komodo dragon.
- How does Kalahari's massive armored ground cricket get past the parents of quelea chicks to reach a tasty meal?
- Many insects in this episode display amazing abilities to eat and survive. Which impressed you the most and why?
- Why is the little red flying fox a "megabat" and how does it survive extreme temperatures?
- How does the largest bear on Earth tolerate extreme cold temperatures?
- How does the weta insect survive extreme cold and how is this similar to a polar bear?
- Describe the largest land mammal on Earth.

**Question Box 2**

- What was most challenging or least interesting about this program?
- What about the show *stood out* to you?
- What did you find most interesting and why?
- How much did you know about the subject before we started?

***Continued on the next page...***

- If you were asked to pick an animal from this episode that would best describe you, what animal would it be and why?

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Pick a “Nature’s Biggest Beast” and describe its habitat and the role the “Beast” plays in the habitat.
- Draw a picture of a “Biggest Beast” and the environment in which it lives.
- Make a chart of the largest “heavy-weights” under the waves and put them in order from largest to smallest. Include details of size for each as well as at least one impressive attribute.
- Compare and contrast an ostrich to a hatzgotteryx.

### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Make a Public Service Announcement (PSA) about a “Biggest Beast” that gives general information about the animal
- Research a “Biggest Beast” and compare and contrast its evolutionary common ancestor.
- Write a poem about the way a Royal Albatross dances and dips above the ocean waves.

### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- There are many types of scientists. Read the following list and watch the short videos to learn more about what each type of scientist does.
  - **Entomologist:** A scientist who studies insects.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=25&v=R6xd0hnObNo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=25&v=R6xd0hnObNo)
  - **Herpetologist:** A person who studies reptiles and amphibians.  
<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/zoology/meet-the-ologist-chris-raxworthy>
  - **Ichthyologist:** A scientist who studies fish  
<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/marine-biology/meet-the-ologist-melanie-stiassny2>.
  - **Ornithologist:** A person who studies birds  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/ornithologist-curious-about-careers-g9kaz5/>
- Of the four that you learned about which are you most interested in and why?
- What classes could you take in middle and high school that would help you learn about the career you selected?