# **Text-Dependent Questioning: Elementary Level**

Virginia Department of Education - 2018

**Resources and Instructional Ideas:**

* Nonfiction Text: Three pages from [Save Our Species](https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/endangered-species-save-our-species-coloring-book), published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
* Nashville Crayfish (p. 5)
* Desert Tortoise (p. 18)
* Mission Blue Butterfly (p. 20)

\*Additional pages can be used to create more text-dependent questions

* Poem: [The Animals are Leaving](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/52195/the-animals-are-leaving) by Charles Harper Webb
* Research Project: Exploring animals that have become extinct or are endangered

**Sample Text-Dependent Questions for the Nonfiction Text:**

1. The Nashville Crayfish “casts off” its older, smaller shell. Reread the text and explain what it means to “cast off” something.
2. Based on information in the text, how did the Desert Tortoise get its name?
3. The author chooses to put quotations around the word “pay” in the following sentence:

*The caterpillars “pay” the ants back by giving off a sweet liquid that the ant likes to eat.*

Why did the author make this choice and what does it help the reader understand?

**Sample Text-Dependent Questions for Poem:**

1. Why did the speaker include a listing of many animals rather than just a few?
2. Reread the poem. Which phrases are examples of figurative language? How do these phrases add to the poem?
3. In the third stanza, school friends that move away are said to “fade out of memory”. What does this phrase mean and how does it connect to the animals listed?

**Research Project Ideas:**

Students will conduct research individually, in pairs, or in groups to gather more information about animals mentioned in the poem. Students can choose an animal from the following list:

* Arabian Ostrich
* Mysterious Starling
* Atlas Bear
* Passenger Pigeon
* Waved Albatross
* White-bearded Spider Monkey
* Australian Night Parrot
* North Island Laughing Owl
* Great Auk
* Dodo
* Portuguese Ibex
* Heath Hen
* Raiatea Thrush
* Indian (or Asiatic) Cheetah
* Blue Buck
* Auroch
* Japanese Wolf
* Hawksbill Sea Turtle
* Great Indian Rhinoceros
* Ceylong (or Asian) Elephant
* Cape Lion

Students will develop questions to guide research such as:

* Where is (or was) this animal’s habitat?
* What factors may have caused this animal to become extinct or endangered?
* What made this animal unique?
* When and where was the last or most recent sighting of this animal?