

World's most electrifying eel found in Amazon

14th September, 2019



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Scientists have discovered a new species of electric eel that is truly shocking. In fact, it is the most shocking creature in the world. The new eel was discovered in the Amazon. It is capable of giving someone an electric

shock that is nearly eight times stronger than the electricity found in the wall socket of an American home. The eel is 2.4 meters long, weighs 45kgs, and can discharge a shock of 860 volts. Appliances in American homes need just 110 volts of electricity. The eel has enough power to give a human a severe electric shock. It is possible the shock could kill a human. The scientists wrote in the journal Nature Communications that the eel is "the strongest living bio-electricity generator".

Scientists have named the new eel *Electrophorus voltai*. The team of researchers actually found two new species of electric eel, but *Electrophorus voltai* is grabbing the headlines because of its electrical power. Up until the two recent discoveries, scientists believed there was only one electric eel in existence. Lead researcher Dr David de Santana said he would not be surprised to find more new species. He wrote: "If you can discover a new 2.4m-long fish after 250 years of exploration, can you imagine what remains to be discovered in that region?" He added: "The discovery...in Amazonia, one of the planet's biodiversity hot spots, is suggestive of the vast amount of species that remain to be discovered in nature."

Sources: thesun.co.uk / the-scientist.com / newatlas.com

Writing

We should spend much more money looking for new species. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / species / electric / eel / shock / appliances / human / possible / generator researchers / headlines / discovery / surprised / exploration / Amazon / biodiversity

True / False

- The newly found eel doesn't have the strongest electric shock. T / F
- The eel has a shock with fewer volts than the wall socket of a US home. T / F
- The eel weighs around 45 kilograms. T / F
- The eel's shock will instantly kill most humans. T / F
- Researchers found two new types of electric eel. T / F
- There are now three species of electric eel in the world. T / F
- A researcher said he'd be surprised if more new species were found. T / F
- The researcher called Amazonia a biodiversity hot spot. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. discovered | a. huge |
| 2. capable | b. outlet |
| 3. socket | c. called |
| 4. enough | d. type |
| 5. living | e. latest |
| 6. named | f. sufficient |
| 7. species | g. area |
| 8. recent | h. found |
| 9. region | i. existing |
| 10. vast | j. able |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you like eating eel?
- Could eels be used to recharge smartphones?
- What can scientists learn from the electric eel?
- What do you think of the Amazon's biodiversity?
- What would the world be look if all creatures had electricity?
- How many more species are there that are undiscovered?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

1. Scientists have discovered a new
 2. the most shocking creature
 3. capable of giving someone
 4. appliances in
 5. the strongest living bio-electricity
 6. grabbing the
 7. he would not be surprised to
 8. after 250 years
 9. one of the planet's biodiversity
 10. suggestive of the vast amount
- a. of exploration
 - b. American homes
 - c. headlines
 - d. in the world
 - e. find more new species
 - f. hot spots
 - g. species
 - h. generator
 - i. of species
 - j. an electric shock

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about eels?
- b) What do you think of electric eels?
- c) How dangerous do you think this electric eel is?
- d) Why do you think this eel has so much electrical charge?
- e) What do you think the eel does with the electrical charge?
- f) What other creatures have electricity?
- g) What could we do if we had electricity?
- h) Could genetic engineering give humans electricity?

Spelling

1. the most shocking racutere in the world
2. apabcle of giving someone an electric shock
3. ishdracge a shock of 860 volts
4. ppianalces in American homes
5. a vesere electric shock
6. the strongest living bio-electricity enrgtaeor
7. grabbing the edhilanes
8. two erecnt discoveries
9. only one electric eel in xsetince
10. 250 years of xpoetarilon
11. discovered in that gerion
12. the planet's dbeivriisoty hot spots

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. j	3. b	4. f	5. i
6. c	7. d	8. e	9. g	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Electric Eels

You think electric eels are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why their animals aren't as scary. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): electric elephants, electric bees or electric cockroaches.

Role B – Electric Elephants

You think electric elephants are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why their animals aren't as scary. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): electric eels, electric bees or electric cockroaches.

Role C – Electric Bees

You think electric bees are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why their animals aren't as scary. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): electric elephants, electric eels or electric cockroaches.

Role D – Electric Cockroaches

You think electric cockroaches are the scariest creatures. Tell the others three reasons why their animals aren't as scary. Tell them why their creatures aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): electric elephants, electric bees or electric eels.

Speaking – Electric Animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the scariest (imaginary) electric animals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- electric ants
- electric cats
- electric bees
- electric eels
- electric mosquitos
- electric cockroaches
- electric koalas
- electric elephants

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.