

A Found Poem: Horseshoe Crabs

An activity of "A secretive underwater crawler".

1. Read the article "A secretive underwater crawler" (page 25, *What's Up* March 2024). Watch the following video to learn more about horseshoe crabs.

10 Incredible Horseshoe Crab Facts

➤ <https://youtu.be/OZlHAVugXNM?si=W7Z9X7EHtCNJkKa9>

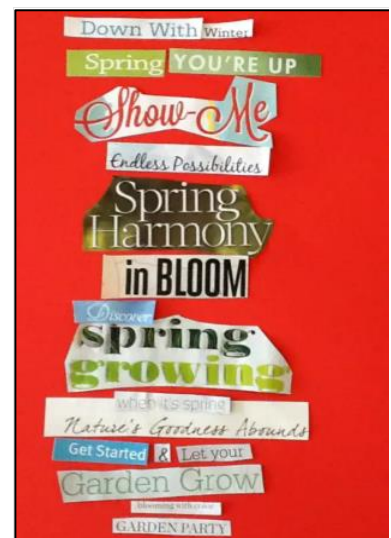
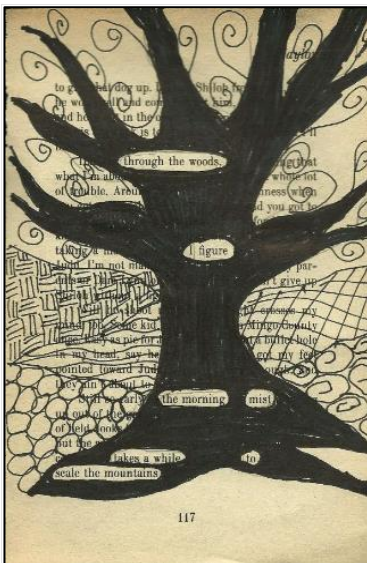
(Facts... 20 Aug 2022)

Based on the *What's Up* article and this video, what were three interesting facts you learned about horseshoe crabs?

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆

2. A **Found Poem** is like a treasure hunt with words. You take words, phrases, and sentences from other texts (like articles, books or even advertisements) and rearrange them to make your own poem.

The following are three examples of Found Poems. Notice how words have been "found" or selected from the original text and reorganised to create new meanings and expressions. You can find more examples at <https://www.poemsearcher.com>.



2a) Let's create a Found Poem based on the theme of "Horseshoe Crabs".

<p>Step 1: Gather your materials Choose your source text. You can use the <i>What's Up</i> article on page 25, the provided collage of text about horseshoe crabs (see next page), find your own, or use all these. You will need scissors, glue, writing and/or colouring materials.</p> <p>Step 2: Find your words As you read, look for words, phrases, and sentences that seem to fit the theme of your poem. Highlight or write down these pieces of text.</p> <p>Step 3: Cut and collect Cut out the words or phrases you have selected. Or you can highlight them in a creative manner (draw images around them, block out unwanted text, add graphics, etc) just like the examples provided earlier.</p> <p>Step 4: Arrange your poem Spread out all your cutouts or look over your list of selected words/ phrases. Play around with their arrangement. There is no right or wrong way to do this. You can place them in a way that tells a story, paints a picture, conveys a feeling, spreads a message about horseshoe crabs and their environment, etc. Your poem does NOT have to rhyme.</p> <p>Step 5: Glue or put your poem together Once you are happy with the arrangement, glue the pieces together in their final positions. Add any images or illustrations that add to the meaning of your poem. Give your poem a title that reflects the overall message of your piece.</p>	<hr/> <p>(title)</p>
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2b) Share your poem by displaying it in class.

YOU CAN USE THIS COLLAGE ↴ TO SELECT WORDS FOR YOUR FOUND POEM.

Horseshoe crab blood saves lives. Can we protect these animals from ourselves?

Humans rely on the animal's blood for lab testing, but the full repercussions of the industry are still not understood.

By Dina Fine Maron
August 04, 2022 • 15 min read

DELAWARE BAY – For such a resilient species, the horseshoe crab appears surprisingly helpless.

Beached upon a remote Delaware shoreline after scrambling ashore to mate, one animal's lobster-like legs wriggle in the air. The crab curls its spear-like tail toward its shell again and again in an attempt to right itself, without success. Soon, it's exhausted.

Its tail slowly droops toward the sand.

The sandy beach is studded with dozens more crabs in similar predicaments. Some will be rescued by the tide or a passing human; others will die.

But even those that survive may soon face heightened pressures because of the global demand for their blue blood, which is harvested for biomedical use. The arachnids' toxin-sensitive blood is the only known natural source of an amebic clotting agent used to detect dangerous endotoxins in a variety of human products, including insulin, intravenous devices, and **COVID vaccines**.

Ranges of horseshoe crabs

- Atlantic/American *Limulus polyphemus*
- Tri-spine *Tachypleus tridentatus*
- Mangrove *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*
- Indo-Pacific *Tachypleus gigas*

Horseshoe crab (Limulus polyphemus)

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... numbers have been reported. The decline of the horseshoe crab, a source of medical materials, has contributed to the ecological pressures on the bay. The harvesting of horseshoe crabs as bait are dwindling, and it is no longer an excuse for using their blood for medical products, said Larry Gorman. "So there's no reason to be killing them," he said.

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