



PDF 1: Reading & Comprehension

Scorpion Farms: Raising Venomous Creatures for Science and Money

A Strange But True Story



Warm-up Questions (Discuss in pairs – 5 minutes)

1. What is the strangest farm or job you have ever heard of?
2. Would you ever work with dangerous animals? Why or why not?

Vocabulary Builder

1. **Venom** – poisonous liquid from an animal's sting or bite
2. **Harvest** – to collect or gather something
3. **Valuable** – worth a lot of money
4. **Research** – scientific study to discover new things
5. **Extract** – to carefully take something out
6. **Traditional medicine** – old ways of treating sickness using natural things
7. **Surprising** – something you didn't expect

Reading Passage

Scorpion Farms – A Very Strange Business

Most farms grow vegetables or raise cows and chickens. But some farms raise something very different – thousands of scorpions!

These scorpion farms exist in countries like Turkey, China, Nigeria, Iran, and others. Farmers keep the scorpions in small plastic boxes or glass containers inside climate-controlled rooms. The scorpions live in the dark and eat insects.

Why do people farm scorpions? Because their venom is extremely valuable.

Workers carefully “harvest” the venom. They use special tools or mild electric stimulation to make each scorpion release a tiny drop of venom from its tail. One scorpion produces only about 2 milligrams of venom per day – a very small amount.

This venom is used in important medical research, to make painkillers, antivenom, and sometimes in cosmetics or traditional medicine. Some people say one liter of pure scorpion venom can be worth millions of dollars, although collecting that much is very difficult and time-consuming.

Scorpion farming is not easy money. It requires special knowledge, careful safety procedures, and a lot of patience. Still, it is a fascinating modern business that turns a dangerous creature into something useful for science and health.

Who would have thought that scorpions could be farmed like this?

Comprehension Questions

1. What do scorpion farms raise?
2. Why is scorpion venom so valuable?
3. How do workers harvest the venom?
4. True or False: One scorpion produces a lot of venom every day.
5. Name two countries where scorpion farms exist.
6. Give one use of scorpion venom.
7. Why is scorpion farming surprising?

Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to visit a scorpion farm? Why or why not?
2. Do you think farming dangerous animals is a good idea?
3. What is the strangest job or business you can imagine?
4. Would you rather work on a scorpion farm or a normal animal farm? Why?

Answer Key

1. Scorpions (for their venom).
2. It is used in medical research, painkillers, antivenom, and sometimes cosmetics or traditional medicine.
3. They use special tools or mild electric stimulation to collect a tiny drop from the tail.
4. False (only about 2 milligrams per day).
5. Any two: Turkey, China, Nigeria, Iran, etc.
6. Any reasonable answer (medical research, painkillers, antivenom, cosmetics).
7. Because most people never imagine farming venomous scorpions like normal farm animals.