

The Liosp

Non-chronological report

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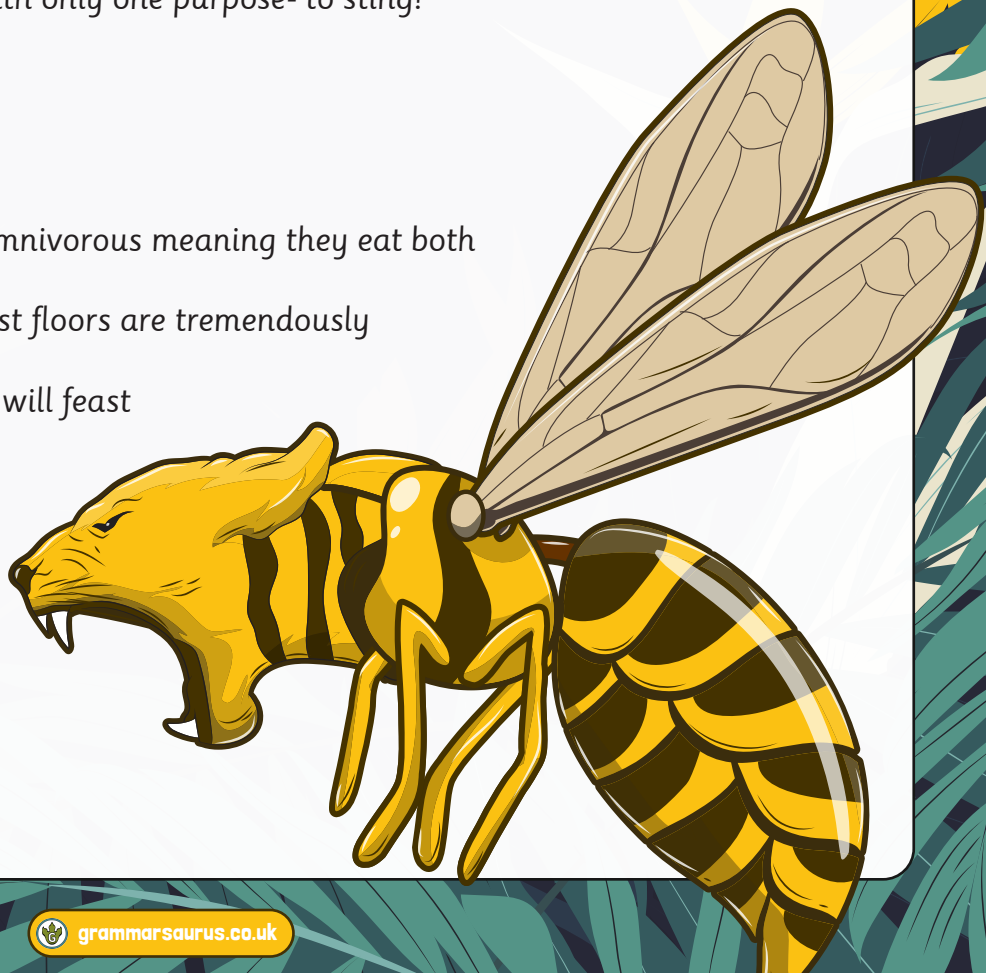
Meet the Liosp - the most visually intimidating mammal/insect to inhabit the world's tropical rainforests. With an upper body of a lion and the lightweight tail-end of a wasp, this creature is perfectly adapted to survive within the competitive realm of its habitat.

Appearance

This unique creature is an obvious hybrid: its large muscular head is an exact replica of a female lion (maneless) and its body too, is identical to that of an everyday house wasp. Dominating its face, an enormous jaw houses four razor-sharp teeth which protrude from each corner. Its two large wings, extending from the centre of its body, provide efficient propulsion (pushing forwards) through the different layers of the rainforest. At the end of its adjoining tail, which surprisingly can extend up to one metre long, is a single spike with only one purpose- to sting!

Diet

Liosps, like Badgerhogs, are omnivorous meaning they eat both plant and animal matter. Forest floors are tremendously rich in animal life so the Liosp will feast on decaying leaves along with insects, arachnids (spiders) and reptiles (snakes and lizards).



Advantaged by its ability to fly, the Liosp can reach the canopy of the rainforest in search for larger prey such as toucans and parrots. Using its sharp teeth, it can tear apart its prey destructively.

Defence

Because of their menacing jaws and deadly stings, Liosps are adept at defending themselves. When threatened, it will strike its tail from left to right to warn the predator of the danger they may face. The Liosp's ability to fly, enhanced by its over-sized wings and aerodynamic body, usually enables it to escape from dangerous situations. Amazingly, if a predator does capture a Liosp, it will release its tail from its body, hoping the predator will then be distracted by the severed limb in order for it to escape.

Fortunately, the Liosp has regenerative genes which means it can grow its tail back within just one week.

So, next time you visit one of our world's tropical rainforests (don't look out for them in the temperate ones- they don't inhabit those) look out for the Liosp because it's not every day (thankfully) that you will see one flying past your window.

