

Nature is Scary

Most people, when they think of nature, imagine blue skies, trees, and soft, furry animals. But the reality is that the natural world has developed through battle – animals competing to survive. Inevitably, then, there are winners – and losers. Australia has a reputation for having some of the most dangerous wildlife, with crocodiles marauding its northern coasts, giant spiders roaming the outback, and wild dogs snatching babies from tents.

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Yet other parts of the world can have similarly frightening creatures. One of the most dangerous animals in Africa is the huge – and fast – hippopotamus. Far from being placid swimmers, these great beasts can outrun a man. Asia is no exception to the dangers that nature has spawned. Recent attention has been drawn to the Asian giant hornet after its arrival in north America. Dubbed the 'murder hornet', a single insect can kill an entire swarm of bees, paralyse small animals, and – in sufficient numbers – even threaten humans.

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Still, though we should be aware, there is no need to live in fear. Humans are the masters of the Earth because our species has, again and again, won nature's competition. More than any other animal, we are the scary part of nature.

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Apart from hippopotamuses, what other dangerous animals do you know of in Africa?

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Where does the "murder hornet" originate?

What is nature's most frightening animal?