

The Remarkable Red-Spotted Glider

Learning objective: To retrieve, infer, and evaluate information from a non-chronological report.

Read the report about the Red-Spotted Glider carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

The Red-Spotted Glider is a fascinating, small mammal that lives in the dense, tropical canopies of distant rainforests. As an arboreal creature, it spends almost its entire life in the treetops, rarely descending to the forest floor. These creatures are strictly nocturnal, emerging at dusk to begin their nightly foraging for sweet tree sap and ripe fruit.

Physically, the Glider is famous for its thin, membranous skin flaps that stretch between its front and back legs. When threatened by a predator, such as a large eagle, the Glider leaps from a branch and spreads these flaps wide. This allows it to glide gracefully across vast gaps between trees, acting like a living parachute. Its fur is a distinctive slate grey, patterned with vibrant, circular red spots that help it camouflage against the flickering sunlight filtering through the leaves. While they are small, their ability to navigate the treetops with such precision makes them the masters of the canopy. Scientists have observed that they are highly social, often huddled together in hollowed-out tree trunks to conserve warmth during the cooler hours of the night.

Word bank: nocturnal · habitat · membranous · gliding · arboreal · foraging · predator

1. Identify two specific items that make up the Red-Spotted Glider's diet. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. What physical feature allows the Glider to travel between trees without flying? (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Explain why the Red-Spotted Glider prefers to be active at night rather than during the day. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Why might the Glider's red spots be considered an advantage for its survival? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think the Red-Spotted Glider is well-adapted to its environment? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a Red-Spotted Glider mid-air with its skin flaps stretched out, soaring between two large rainforest trees.



Extension challenge: Nova the owl wants to know how the Glider compares to other animals. Research or imagine another gliding animal and create a table to compare their habitat, diet, and unique features. Explain why these adaptations are necessary for their survival.