

## Word of the Week

### “Bog”

- Can be a noun, or a verb. Nouns are people, places, or things. Verbs are action words, they are things you *do*. We are looking at the noun form.
- Is pronounced: **ˈbɒɡ**
- Means: *geography* : wet spongy ground
- In a sentence: “Bogs are a vital part of our ecosystem.”
- For more information, and it’s other definitions, see [merriam-webster.com](http://merriam-webster.com)

## Place of the Moment

### Chad: Guelta d'Archei



Camels and crocodiles share the black waters of this stunning Saharan oasis.

The Guelta d’Archei is a *guelta*, or oasis, in the Ennedi Plateau in northeastern Chad. For centuries, caravans have stopped in the steep-faced canyon to water their camels. Every day, hundreds of camels can be seen drinking the black water of the guelta, their grunts and

bellows echoing around the canyon walls.

The mostly knee-deep water has turned black over the years due to the incessant supply of excrement offloaded by the thirsty camels. Not exactly the perfect place for a swim, then, unless you happen to be a crocodile.



Crocodiles were once widespread throughout the Sahara until the early 20th century, when increased aridity combined with human persecution led to the extinction of many local populations. The best-known remaining population in Chad is found in the Guelta d’Archei, where West African crocodiles eat the fish that thrive on the algae-rich waters of the camel-dung fertilized guelta.



Frogs also inhabit the guelta, and desert antelope can sometimes be seen drinking from the precious supply of water. With the exception of the daily camel herders, humans are scarce. Chad is one of the least visited countries in the world, and the oasis sits in the middle of the Sahara.

But for those adventurous travelers who do brave the desert for a trip to the Guelta d’Archei, the reward is a surreal landscape in one of the Sahara’s most ancient oases, as attested by the rock paintings up on the cliffs, some of which date back to the middle Holocene.

“Tony Dinnell.” [“Guelta d’Archai.”](#) Atlas Obscura (web). Accessed 26 March, 2020.

## **Nipper**

Nipper is continuing to learn about bats. He's just entranced. He started out looking through books in the library, but now that everything has gone virtual, he's turning his attention to websites and online searches. This will mean a new kind of bibliography... but for now he's still gathering info. Here's one fun fact that he found on the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website:

- The hibernaculum protects bats from predators, light, noise, and other disturbances. Temperatures in the hibernaculum must be cool enough to allow bats to maintain a low body temperature but not freeze; humidity must be high and constant enough to prevent bats from dehydrating.

**Q: Where else should Nipper be going for research?**

## **Library Skill**

In the library, we had been having a lot of conversations about genres of fiction. Remember, the "genre" is like the "flavor" - it describes what sort of made up story it will be. Our library uses 13 different genres to organize the books, and we're going to take a close look into them.

This week, we will be looking at the **Fantasy** genre. FANT on the spine, light green tape.

What are some key words you'd use to describe a fantasy book? I might use "dragons" - what else can we add?

What are some examples of a Fantasy book you can think of?

Is this a genre you enjoy? Why or why not?

## **Reading for Pleasure**

I'm going to keep asking... What is a book you are really enjoying? What is one thing about that book that makes it so great?