

Read the story from page 11 of *First News*. Read the story, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the stories – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



## SCIENCE NEWS



The eels encircle the tiny tetras

### ELECTRIC eels that hunt in gangs? Sounds pretty terrifying!

Luckily for us, their prey are tiny fish called tetras.

Scientists in the Amazon basin, Brazil, have discovered that electric eels work together and hunt in groups.

The experts discovered a small lake near the river, filled with more than 100 adult electric eels. This itself was surprising, as electric eels were thought to prefer being alone. Many of them were over 120 centimetres long!

But what the team spotted next was even more startling. The eels formed a large circle to herd thousands of small fish called tetras into tightly-packed balls.

Once they had done that, groups of eels split off to form hunting parties. These smaller groups then surrounded the little balls of fish and fired out electric shocks, all at

the same time.

The shocks sent the tetras flying out of the water. When they splashed back down, the tiny fish were stunned and unable to move. Dinner time for the eels!

The hunting packs were seen at dusk and dawn. Each hunt lasted about an hour and involved between five and seven attacks.

The rest of the time the eels lay almost completely still, just occasionally rising to the surface to breathe.

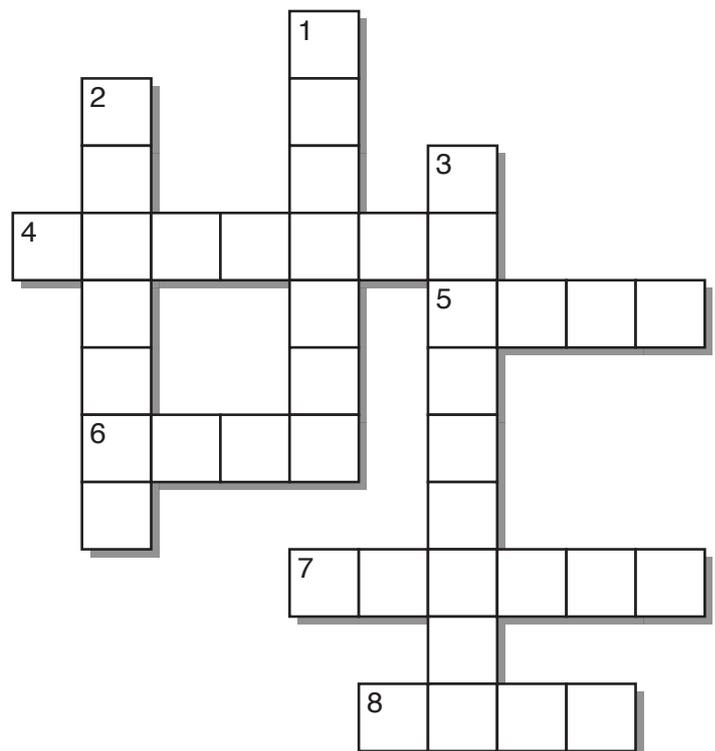
The lead scientist said the hunting behaviour was “an extraordinary discovery” that had never been seen before.

### ACROSS

- 4) The top layer of the water (noun 7)
- 5) To round up; to collect or group together (verb 4)
- 6) These animals hunt in groups and use electricity to stun their prey (plural noun 4)
- 7) What the tetras get when the eels zap them (plural noun 6)
- 8) An animal that is hunted and killed by other animals for food (noun 4)

### DOWN

- 1) Violent physical actions (plural noun 7)
- 2) Knocked out; dazed (verb 7)
- 3) Actions; the way in which animals act in a situation (noun 9)



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The answers to the clues are all words in the stories. Answer the clue and then underline the word.



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