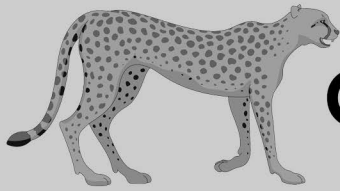
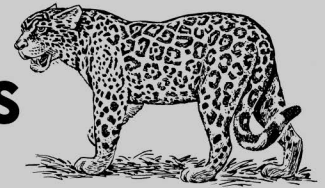


Name: _____

Date: _____



Cheetahs and Leopards



Both cheetahs and leopards are spotted wild cats. Because leopards can roar, they are also classified as big cats. Cheetahs are not classified as big cats because they purr and growl but do not roar. Both cats are meat-eating animals, or carnivores. Cheetahs hunt during the day, while leopards hunt at night. Cheetahs carry their prey into the tall grass to eat. Leopards take their prey high up into trees to eat. Cheetahs tend to run in small packs, while leopards hunt alone. Cheetahs are slightly taller than leopards and have small heads and round faces. Their bodies are slender with deep chests, narrow waists, and long legs. They have tan fur with black spots. Leopards have big heads, broad faces, and powerful jaws. Their legs and tails tend to be shorter than cheetahs. They have yellow fur with small black spots inside rosettes. Cheetahs have exposed claws while leopards have retractable claws. Cheetahs are much faster than leopards. The much lighter cheetah can reach speeds up to 75 miles per hour. The best that a leopard can do is about half that fast, at 36 miles per hour.

1) Scientists classify leopards as both wild cats and big cats because ---

- A) they are able to roar
- B) they are able to climb trees
- C) they have sharp claws
- D) they are spotted

2) Context clues and the suffix -able help the reader know that *retractable* claws ---

- A) are not able to be withdrawn
- B) are able to be drawn in or extended
- C) sharpen themselves
- D) are not pointed on the ends

3) What is one way to compare cheetahs and leopards?

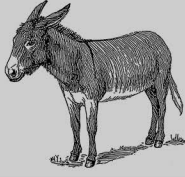
- A) Both hunt in packs.
- B) Both hunt during the day.
- C) Both hunt only after dark.
- D) Both hunt and eat other animals.

4) What is one way to contrast cheetahs and leopards?

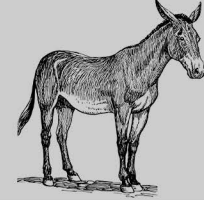
- A) Cheetahs are louder than leopards.
- B) Cheetahs are slower than leopards.
- C) Cheetahs are faster than leopards.
- D) Cheetahs have retractable claws and leopards do not.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Donkeys and Mules



Donkeys and mules are different species but are part of the horse family. A mule is the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse. Mules look more like horses than donkeys do. They have the size and shape of a horse but with much longer ears and a shorter mane. They can be ridden in most of the same ways that horses are ridden. Donkeys have long ears too. They also have coarse hair, flatter backs, smaller hooves, and thin tails. They usually have a dark stripe along their backs and across their shoulders. Donkeys and mules each make unique sounds. A donkey makes a noise that sounds like a definite hee-haw. A mule makes a noise that sounds like a horse's whinny mixed with a hee-haw at the end. Donkeys and mules are working animals. They are able to carry heavy loads over rough ground. Since mules are larger than donkeys, they can carry more weight. Both animals are very sure-footed. People have the incorrect opinion that donkeys and mules are stubborn. They are very smart and will not obey commands that put themselves or their passengers in danger. Both donkeys and mules eat plants and have a lifespan of 30 years or more.

1) What does *offspring* mean?

- A) cause
- B) descendant
- C) original
- D) adult

2) The reader can conclude that donkeys and mules make great pack animals because ---

- A) they make unique sounds
- B) they are stubborn about carrying heavy loads
- C) they are too small to be ridden
- D) they are smart and coordinated

3) Which of the following statements is true for both donkeys and mules?

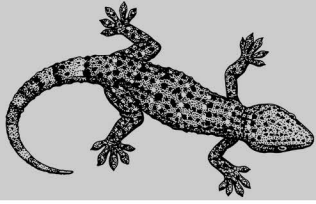
- A) They are highly intelligent.
- B) They sound like horses.
- C) They belong to the same species.
- D) They cannot be ridden.

4) According to the text, how are donkeys different from mules?

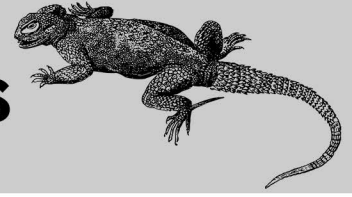
- A) Donkeys are pack animals and mules are always ridden.
- B) Donkeys do not live as long as mules.
- C) Donkeys are more stubborn than mules.
- D) Donkeys always say hee-haw and mules combine whinnies with hee-haws.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Geckos and Lizards



Geckos and lizards are reptiles. All geckos are lizards. Not all lizards are geckos. Both lizards and geckos have four legs and a detachable tail. They are both cold-blooded. A gecko's skin is bumpy and thin, while a lizard's skin is dry and scaly. Lizards have eyelids but geckos do not. Instead of eyelids, a gecko has a transparent membrane that it licks to clean. Geckos have eyes with large pupils to help them hunt at night. They have broad toes covered with flaps of bristled skin. Some have special toe pads that make it possible to climb vertically. Lizards have clawed feet without toe pads. Geckos and most lizards can leave their tails behind when attacked. Sometimes it will grow back and sometimes it won't. For protection, geckos will also expel poop and other material that smells bad. Geckos eat mostly insects. Lizards eat insects, small animals, fruits, and vegetables. Geckos are native to North Africa. They were carried to other countries by world travelers accidentally. Lizards have been present on most continents since prehistoric times. The lifespan of a lizard is one to three years. In contrast, a gecko lives five to seven years.

1) Context clues and the suffix -able help the reader know that the word *detachable* means ---

- A) fixed in one position
- B) immovable
- C) able to be separated
- D) not able to be detached

2) Why do geckos have eyes with large pupils?

- A) They do not have eyelids.
- B) It is an adaptation for nocturnal hunting.
- C) They do not see very well in the dark.
- D) It is an adaptation for finding fruits and vegetables to eat.

3) Both geckos and lizards ---

- A) are cold-blooded reptiles
- B) have no eyelids
- C) have special toe pads for climbing
- D) live about five years

4) Unlike lizards, geckos ---

- A) have clawed feet
- B) eat mostly fruits and vegetables
- C) have tails that can be left behind while they run away
- D) lick the coverings over their eyelids to keep them clean

Name: _____

Date: _____



Penguins and Puffins



Penguins and puffins are seabirds. They are not closely related, even though they look alike and are covered with black and white feathers. They live near coasts but in different locations. Penguins live in the Southern hemisphere and puffins in the Northern hemisphere. Both birds have short wings, but penguins cannot fly and puffins can. This is because penguins have thick, heavy bodies with solid bones. Puffins have short bodies and light bones. Both birds like to eat small fish. They share natural enemies such as sharks and orcas. Large seagulls also hunt puffins while sea lions also eat penguins. Penguins are much larger than puffins. A penguin can reach 4 feet in height and weigh up to 75 pounds. A puffin is about 15 inches tall and only weighs about 2 pounds. Penguins use their stiff wings like flippers. They are great divers and can stay underwater for up to 20 minutes. Puffins do not spend much time underwater. They have spikes in their mouths which allow them to collect huge numbers of tiny fish all at once. Penguins and puffins mate for life and both parents care for their babies together.

1) Based on information in the text, if a reader traveled to the North Pole, it is true that ---

- A) no puffins will be there
- B) no penguins will be there
- C) both penguins and puffins will be there
- D) neither penguins nor puffins will be there

2) A synonym for the word *stiff* is ---

- A) inflexible
- B) loose
- C) bendable
- D) soft

3) Both penguins and puffins ---

- A) have spikes in their mouths
- B) can weigh more than 10 pounds
- C) have solid bones
- D) are birds with black and white feathers

4) Unlike penguins, puffins ---

- A) can fly
- B) eat small fish
- C) can be found near coasts all over the world
- D) are able to stay underwater for long periods of time

Name: _____

Date: _____



Sea Lions and Seals



Sea lions and seals are mammals. Their bodies are shaped like barrels with four flippers. Although a sea lion has much larger front flippers than a seal, both are great swimmers. They move swiftly and freely through the ocean. Their thick skin and extra layer of fat insulate them against the cold. They can see and hear very well whether above or below the water. Seals rarely come ashore. If they do, they move by wriggling around on their bellies. They sometimes travel long distances searching for food. Their hind flippers are used to propel them through the water. Although they are more flexible than sea lions, they are not as fast. Sea lions are very agile swimmers. Their front flippers are used to propel them through the water. By rotating their hind flippers forward, they can walk on land. Sea lions are much louder than seals. They bark while seals grunt softly. Sea lions are very social animals and gather together in large herds. Hundreds can often be seen taking a sunbath on a warm day. Sea lions are commonly used in marine shows due to their swimming agility and ability to perform tricks and tasks.

1) Which of the following adaptations do NOT help sea lions or seals move through cold water?

- A) flippers
- B) thick skin
- C) an extra layer of fat
- D) the ability to bark or grunt

2) A synonym for the word *insulate* as it is used in the text is ---

- A) connect
- B) mingle
- C) protect
- D) uncover

3) What is one way to compare sea lions and seals?

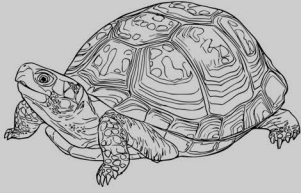
- A) They live most of their lives ashore.
- B) They use flippers to move through the water.
- C) They make loud noises.
- D) They have poor vision unless they are underwater.

4) What is one way to contrast sea lions and seals?

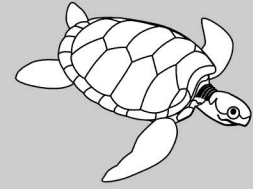
- A) Sea lions have much larger front flippers than seals do.
- B) Sea lions prefer to live alone while seals live in large groups.
- C) Sea lions are quieter than seals.
- D) Sea lions are slower swimmers than seals.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Tortoises and Turtles



Turtles live mainly in the water. Their webbed feet make them excellent swimmers. Their bodies are flat and streamlined. They glide through the water easily and quickly. Tortoises mostly live on land. In fact, they cannot swim. They only use water for drinking and taking baths. Tortoises have stumpy feet with claws, making them better able to move about in the dirt. Their bodies are round with a shell like a dome. Turtles leave the water to sun themselves on logs or rocks. In hot weather, tortoises will burrow under the ground to stay cool. Both of these animals are reptiles. They are also cold-blooded, meaning their body temperature changes with the weather. Both have bodies covered by a bony shell. Although some tortoises eat worms and insects, most of them are herbivores. They eat plants such as flowers, shrubs, and grasses. Turtles are omnivores. They eat plants as well as fish, worms, and insects. The largest tortoise is the giant Galapagos tortoise that can weigh 900 pounds. The largest turtle is the leatherback sea turtle that can weigh 2,000 pounds.

1) Why are tortoises better able to move about on land than in the water?

- A) They are not cold-blooded.
- B) They have stumpy feet with claws.
- C) They have a dome-shaped shell.
- D) They have flat bodies and webbed feet.

2) Based on information in the text, the reader can conclude that animals who are *omnivores* ---

- A) only eat plants
- B) only eat animals
- C) eat both plants and animals
- D) eat neither plants nor animals

3) One similarity between tortoises and turtles is that they both ---

- A) burrow under the ground during hot weather
- B) have webbed feet
- C) are excellent swimmers and divers
- D) have protective outer shells

4) According to the text, what is one big difference between tortoises and turtles?

- A) Tortoises live mostly in the water, and turtles live mostly on land.
- B) Tortoises cannot swim, and turtles are excellent swimmers.
- C) Tortoises have shells and turtles don't.
- D) Tortoises are reptiles, but turtles are amphibians.