

# 20

Common Core Aligned

DRILLS

# MAIN IDEA



# & DETAILS


# ELA Reading Drills



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

**Paragraph:** Sloths move slowly and use their environment to avoid getting caught by its enemies. By moving slowly, sloths eat and restable on their weight when hanging. The algae that grows on sloths fur also helps them avoid predators by leaving them invisible to vultures. Sloths also use their long, sticky claws to grip onto tree trunks and hanging upside down from their claws and sleeping.



**1. Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A. Sloths allow algae to grow on their fur so that they can blend in with their surroundings.
- B. Sloths hang upside down to avoid being caught by predators.
- C. Sloths move slowly and use algae to blend in with their surroundings.
- D. Sloths use their long, sticky claws to grip onto tree trunks and hanging upside down.

**2. Sloths will defend themselves if caught by doing all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A. hanging and stretching
- B. hanging
- C. clinging with their claws
- D. looking

**3. How do sloths avoid getting caught by its enemies by your response?**

Sloths avoid getting caught by its enemies by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

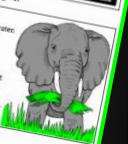
Go back into the paragraph to find one more detail you can use to answer the question. Write it in the space below.

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

**Paragraph:** Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways. Their trunks can be used as reachers when an elephant wades in deep water. pull it down to the mouth, and to pick up clumps of grass and wrap them together into their mouths. They sometimes hug by wrapping their trunks together to help lift or support an object. They also use their trunks to help lift or support an object. They raise a newborn elephant to its feet. Last, much like a monkey, an elephant can use its trunk to hold its trunk for comfort.



**1. Which sentence best states the main idea of the passage?**

- A. "They sometimes hug by wrapping their trunks together to help lift or support an object."
- B. "Last, much like a monkey, an elephant can use its trunk for comfort."
- C. "Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways."
- D. "Their trunks can be used as reachers when an elephant wades in deep water."

**2. Which line in the paragraph explains how an elephant breathes when under water?**

- A. Line 1
- B. Line 2
- C. Line 3
- D. Line 7

**3. According to the paragraph, what do elephants do similar to humans?**

- A. For comfort, elephants can use their trunks when under water.
- B. Elephants use their trunks to hold their trunks much like humans hold their thumbs.
- C. Both elephants and humans will raise each other off the ground to eat.
- D. Both elephants and humans will use their hands to eat.

**4. How do elephants use their trunks to care for each other? Use 100 details from the story to support your response.**

Elephants use their trunks to care for each other by \_\_\_\_\_

They also use their trunks to care for each other by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Go back into the paragraph to find one more detail you can use to answer the question. Write it in the space below.

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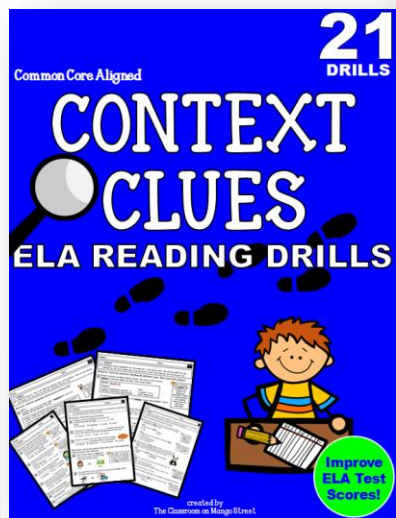
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# ASSISTED DRILLS



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

### The Diet of Killer Whales

1 Killer whales hunt everything from fish to walruses—  
 2 seals, sea lions, penguins, squid, sea turtles, sharks,  
 3 and even other whales. Depending on the season and  
 4 where they are located, their diet varies—some killer  
 5 whales eat more fish and squid than seals and penguins.  
 6 But wherever they are in any of the world's oceans, the  
 7 average killer whale may eat about 500 pounds of food a  
 8 day. They do not chew their food. They can swallow small  
 9 seals and sea lions whole. Bigger prey is eaten in chunks.




**1 Which detail best supports the paragraph's main idea?**

- A Killer whales do not chew their food.
- B Killer whales can swallow some prey whole.
- C The average killer whale may eat about 500 pounds of food a day.
- D Killer whales hunt and eat everything from fish and walruses, to sea turtles and sharks.

 The question is asking you to pick the detail that helps explain the main idea.

**2 Which detail from the paragraph explains why a killer whale might not need teeth?**

- A "They can swallow small seals and sea lions whole."
- B "Bigger prey is eaten in chunks."
- C "The average killer whale can eat up to 500 pounds of food a day."
- D "Some killer whales eat more fish and squid than seals and penguins."

 "Explains" means "shows." Which detail shows why a killer whale might not need teeth when eating?

**3 Which line in the paragraph suggests killer whales cannot swallow everything they eat whole?**

- A Line 6
- B Line 7
- C Line 8
- D Line 9

 Go back into the paragraph to find the line that suggests killer whales can't swallow everything they eat whole.

**4 Based on information in the paragraph, killer whales eat all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A whales
- B sea lions
- C sea turtles
- D alligators



Use the paragraph to find out which animal killer whales don't eat.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### How Skunks Defend Themselves!

Skunks use a smelly spray to defend themselves against their enemies. The spray, which comes from two glands near the base of the skunk's tail, can hit a target 12 feet away. If you are lucky, you may get a warning before being sprayed. If threatened, skunks stamp their front feet, lift their tail, and growl. Some species of skunk even spring into a handstand before spraying, which puts the skunk's warning markings on full display. If the person or animal doesn't retreat, the skunk aims the spray at the eyes, allowing the skunk to escape. The spray can remain on its target for days.



**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A "The spray can remain on its target for days."
- B "Skunks use a smelly spray to defend themselves against their enemies."
- C "The spray, which comes from two glands near the base of the skunk's tail, can hit a target 12 feet away."
- D "If the person or animal doesn't retreat, the skunk aims the spray at the eyes..."

 Follow these steps to find the main idea!

1. Think about what the paragraph was mostly about
2. Check the title
3. Read the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence
4. Look at the picture for a clue

**2** Skunks will warn their enemies by doing all of the following EXCEPT:

- A growling
- B doing a handstand and lifting their tail
- C stamping their front feet
- D kicking dirt in the air




"All of the following EXCEPT" means "everything but." Skunks will warn their enemies by doing everything but \_\_\_\_\_.

**3** According to the paragraph, where does the skunk aim its spray?

- A at the bushes 12 feet away
- B at the animal or person's eyes
- C at the animal's tail
- D it does not aim its spray



When you see "according to the paragraph," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It'll be right there!

 Based on your answer in question 3, why do you think the skunk aims its spray at this specific spot?

The skunk aims its spray at the \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

An ostrich will either run, fight or hide when in danger. While it cannot fly, it can run up to 40 miles per hour. It can also use its strong legs for self-defense. An ostrich will kick with a force mighty enough to kill a lion. When danger approaches, an ostrich will often lie low to hide, stretching its neck along the ground. Its feather colors blend with the sandy soil where it lives.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?**

- A "While it cannot fly, it can run up to 40 miles per hour."
- B "It can also use its strong legs for self-defense."
- C "An ostrich will either run, fight or hide when in danger."
- D "An ostrich will kick with a force mighty enough to kill a lion."



*The main idea is what the paragraph talks mostly about. Which answer does this?*

**2 Ostriches will do all of the following to protect itself EXCEPT:**

- A use its legs to kick
- B run away
- C hide
- D fly away



*Ostriches will do all of the above to protect themselves from enemies but\_\_\_\_\_.*

**3 According to the text, how does an ostrich's feathers help protect the bird from its enemies?**

- A The feathers help ostriches fly.
- B The color of its feathers help ostriches blend in with the sandy soil.
- C An ostrich will flap its feathers into an enemy's face so it cannot see.
- D An ostrich will hide its head in its feathers.



*When you see "according to the text," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It's an easy point!*

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### How the Color Pattern of the Killer Whale Helps It Hunt

The color pattern of killer whales helps them sneak up on and attack their prey. Their backs are black, their stomachs are white. Animals looking down on a killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it's black color blends with the water below. On the other hand, the killer whale's white belly blends with the sunlight streaming down into the sea from the surface, making it hard to spot from below. With killer whales blending in so well, fish, penguins, and seals are likely unaware of the danger heading their way.



A killer whale has a white belly and black back.

#### 1 Read the detail below:

*“Animals looking down on an killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it’s black color blends with the water below.”*

**Why is this sentence important to the main idea of the paragraph?**

- A It proves that seals are not smart animals.
- B It shows how the killer whale got its name.
- C It describes how the killer whale swims in the water when it hunts.
- D It shows how the color pattern of the killer whale can help it sneak up on and attack their prey.

**This question is asking:** “Which of the answers above does the detail help explain? For example:

- Does the detail help explain that seals are not smart animals? *Not really.*
- Does the detail help explain how the killer whale got its name?
- Does the detail help explain how the killer whale swims when it hunts?
- Does the detail help explain how the color pattern of the killer whale helps it sneak up on and attack prey?

#### 2 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A “Their backs are black, their stomachs are white.”
- B “On the other hand, the killer whale’s white belly blends with the sunlight streaming down into the sea from the surface, making it hard to spot from below.”
- C “The color pattern of killer whales helps them sneak up on and attack their prey.”
- D “Animals looking down on an killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it’s black color blends with the water below.”

*The main idea tells you what the paragraph is mostly about. Use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and image to give you a clue.*

#### 3 Based on the paragraph, what might an animal in the water mistake a killer whale’s belly for?

- A ice
- B sunlight
- C blue whale
- D water



*When you see “based on the paragraph,” find the answer in the paragraph!*

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

The father penguin is responsible for keeping the mother penguin’s egg warm and safe while she goes out to sea to find food. The father penguin balances the egg on his feet and covers it with his brood pouch. The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy. There the male stands with the egg, for about 60 days, through freezing temperatures, blinding storms and gusty winds. Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick. The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find his own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick.



A father penguin keeps an egg warm.

1 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A “The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find their own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick.”
- B “Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick.”
- C “The father penguin is responsible for keeping the mother penguin’s egg warm and safe while she goes out to sea to find food.”
- D “The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy.”



The main idea tells you what the paragraph is mostly about. Which answer above does this?

2 Which detail best supports the idea that father penguins are patient and strong?

- A “The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find their own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick.”
- B “There the male stands with the egg, for about 60 days, through freezing temperatures, blinding storms and gusty winds.”
- C “The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy.”
- D “Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick.”



“Supports the idea” means “shows.” Pick the answer that shows father penguins are patient and strong!

3 How do mother and father penguins take care of their young? Use two details from the story to support your response.

The mother takes care of her young by \_\_\_\_\_

The father penguin takes care of his young by \_\_\_\_\_

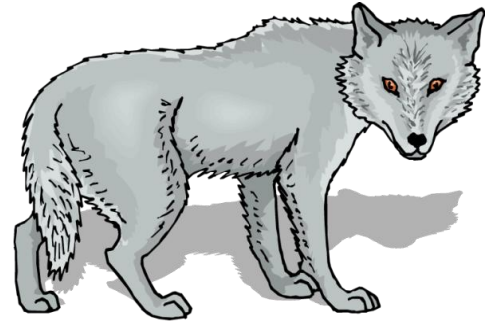


Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.




**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Wolves communicate in many different ways, besides howling! They whimper and whine, growl and bark, snarl and yelp. They also use scents created by their bodies to communicate. One source of scent is urine, which they use to mark territory, and to tell other wolves in their own pack where they are. Another way wolves communicate is through body language. If a wolf feels confident, it will approach another wolf with its head and tail held high and ears perked up. If you saw a wolf slinking toward another with its body lowered, its tail between its legs, and its ears flattened, it's a sign the approaching wolf is not the dominant animal.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Dominant wolves will approach other wolves with its head and tail held high, with its ears perked up.
- B Wolves mark their territory with scents to tell other wolves in their pack where they are.
- C Wolves communicate with each other through scents, body language and making noises.
- D Wolves communicate by howling, and confident wolves will have their tails between their legs and ears flattened.

 The summary tells you what the paragraph is about, including key details of the paragraph.

**2 Which detail from the paragraph best explains when a wolf is not the dominant animal?**


- A "They whimper and whine, growl and bark, snarl and yelp."
- B "They also use scents created by their bodies to communicate..."
- C "If a wolf feels confident, it will approach another wolf with its head and tail held high..."
- D "If you saw a wolf slinking toward another with its body lowered, its tail between its legs, and its ears flattened..."

 Go back into the paragraph to see which detail tells when the wolf is not the dominant animal!

**3 What do wolves use scents for? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

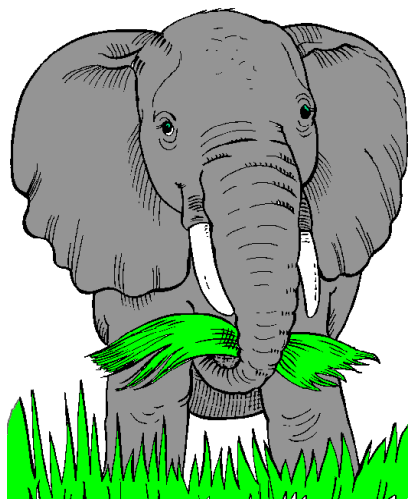
Wolves use scents to \_\_\_\_\_

Wolves also use scents to \_\_\_\_\_

- 
- Go back into the paragraph to find two wolves use their scents.
  - Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

1 Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways. Their  
 2 trunks can be used as snorkels when an elephant wades in deep water.  
 3 Elephants can also use its trunk to grasp an entire tree branch and  
 4 pull it down to its mouth, and to yank up clumps of grasses and  
 5 shove the greenery into their mouths. They sometimes hug by  
 6 wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection.  
 7 Elephants also use their trunks to help lift or nudge an baby elephant  
 8 (calf) over an obstacle, to rescue a fellow elephant stuck in mud, or to  
 9 gently raise a newborn elephant to its feet. Last, much like a  
 10 human baby sucks its thumb, an elephant calf often sucks its trunk for  
 11 comfort.



1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the passage?

- A "They sometimes hug by wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection."
- B "Last, much like a human baby sucks its thumb, an elephant calf often sucks its trunk for comfort."
- C "Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways."
- D "Their trunks can be used as snorkels when an elephant wades in deep water."

2 Which line in the paragraph explains how an elephant breathes when under water?

- A Line 1
- B Line 2
- C Line 5
- D Line 7



*Go back into the paragraph to see which line tells how elephants breathe when under water.*

3 According to the paragraph, what do elephants do similar to humans?

- A Both elephants and humans can use snorkels when under water.
- B For comfort, elephant calves (babies) will suck their trunk much like human babies suck their thumbs.
- C Elephants will use their trunks to eat, much like humans will use their hands to eat.
- D Both elephants and humans will rescue each other if stuck in the mud.



*When you see "according to the paragraph," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It's an easy point!*

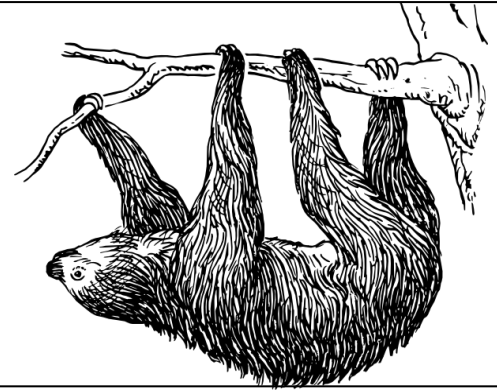
4 How do elephants use their trunks to care for each other? Use two details from the story to support your response.

Elephants use their trunks to care for each other by \_\_\_\_\_

They also use their trunks to care for each other by \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Sloths move slowly and use their environment to avoid getting caught by its enemies. By moving slowly, sloths are less noticeable to predators such as hawks and big cats, which rely heavily on their eyesight when hunting. The algae that grows on sloths' fur also helps them avoid predators by letting them blend in with green leaves. If they are caught by a predator, sloths turn from sluggish to slugger, biting fiercely, hissing, slashing with their claws, and shrieking.



1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?

- A Sloths allow algae to grow on their fur so that they can blend in with their surroundings.
- B Hawks and big cats rely heavily on their eyesight when hunting.
- C Sloths move slowly and use algae to blend in with its surroundings to avoid being caught by enemies, and will fight fiercely if caught.
- D Sloths may seem like peaceful animals, but they will bite, hiss and slash with their claws if they are caught.



The summary is much like the main idea. It tells you what the paragraph is about and includes key details.

2 Sloths will defend themselves if caught by doing all of the following EXCEPT:

- A hissing and shrieking
- B biting
- C slashing with their claws
- D kicking



"All of the following EXCEPT" = "everything but." Sloths will defend themselves by doing everything but \_\_\_\_\_.

3 How do sloths avoid getting caught by its enemies? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.

Sloths avoid getting caught by its enemies by \_\_\_\_\_

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- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways sloths avoid getting caught.
- Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Killer whales have many hunting techniques. Bumping seals off the ice is just one of them. Known by scientists as the wolves of the sea, killer whales hunt together in cooperative pods, or family groups, much like a pack of wolves. Groups of killer whales cooperate to herd fish into a small, tight area so that they're easier to eat. They will also slap their tails onto the water's surface, causing a wave to wash prey, such as penguins or sea lions, off the ice and into the water. Sometimes a pod of killer whales will surround a larger animal, such as a blue whale. They will chase, bite, and wear down the whale until it becomes a meal.



**1 Which sentence best describes the main idea of the story?**

- A "They will also slap their tails onto the water's surface, causing a wave to wash prey, such as penguins or sea lions, off the ice and into the water."
- B "Killer whales have many hunting techniques."
- C "Sometimes a pod of killer whales will surround a larger animal, such as a blue whale."
- D "They will chase, bite, and wear down the whale until it becomes a meal."



*Cross out the answers that you know are wrong. This will make it easier to pick the correct answer.*

**2 According to the paragraph, why do killer whales slap their tails onto the water's surface?**

- A to trap fish into a small, tight area so that the pod of killer whales can eat them
- B to gain speed while chasing larger animals, such as blue whales
- C to bump prey, such as sea lions, off the ice and into the water
- D to keep its enemies and other dangerous animals away



*When you see "according to the paragraph," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It's an easy point!*

**3 How do killer whales work together to hunt for food? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

Killer whales work together to hunt for food by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

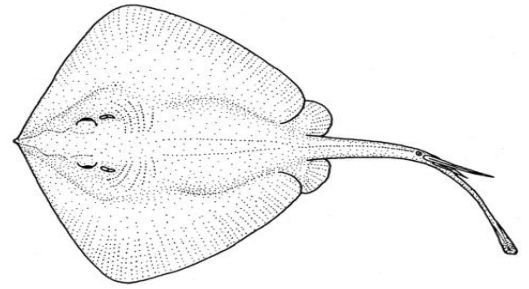


- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways killer whales work together to hunt for food.
- Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

What Do Stingrays Rely on for Self-Defense?

Stingrays have tails that are armed for defense. Some stingrays have a spine in their tail with a very sharp point and edges that are serrated or notched. Many species, including the blue-spotted stingray, have venom (or poison) that is delivered through their tails. That venom, and the sharp spine itself, can be dangerous to humans.



1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?

- A Stingrays are dangerous to humans.
- B Stingrays have sharp and/or poisonous tails for self-defense.
- C Every stingray has a sharp tail with serrated edges.
- D The white-spotted stingray is a harmless animal.



The summary is much like the main idea, and includes the most important details.

2 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A "That venom, and the sharp spine itself, can be dangerous to humans."
- B "Stingrays have tails that are armed for defense."
- C "Many species, including the blue-spotted stingray, have venom (or poison) that is delivered through their tails."
- D "Some stingrays have a spine in their tail with a very sharp point and edges that are serrated or notched."



You can often figure out the main idea by looking at the title, the 1st sentence and the picture.

3 How is the stingray's tail dangerous to humans? Use two details from the story to support your response.

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- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways that the stingray's tail is dangerous to humans.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "A stingray's tail is dangerous to humans because...."

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

When camping, it is fun to make a camp fire to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows. However, campers should be careful with fires. A fire should be built in a safe place. Some parks have pits in the ground where campers can build a fire. If there isn't a pit, campers can make a circle using rocks and build the fire within the circle. Also, a fire should be watched at all times and should not be left alone until it is completely out. If an uncontrolled fire is seen, it should be reported to a firefighter as soon as possible.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A While camp fires are fun, they should be built in a safe place and completely put out when finished.
- B Camp fires are fun, but cause many forest fires.
- C Camp fires should be built in a safe place.
- D Campers should tell a firefighter if they see an uncontrolled fire.



*The summary includes the main idea and key details. Which answer does this?*

**2 Which sentence suggests that camp fires can be dangerous without supervision?**

- A "When camping, it is fun to make a camp fire to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows."
- B "If there isn't a pit, campers can make a circle using rocks and build the fire within the circle."
- C "Some parks have pits in the ground where campers can build a fire."
- D "Also, a fire should be watched at all times and should not be left alone until it is completely out."



*"Suggests" = "hints." Pick the sentence that hints camp fires can be dangerous if nobody is watching it.*

**3 How can a camp fire be built safely? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

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- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways to build a camp fire safely.
- Start your answer by repeating the question "A camp fire can be built safely by ..."

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### What Made The Dinosaurs Disappear?

Dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago. Scientists believe almost all animal life on earth died out due to a large meteor that collided with earth. A meteor is a large space rock. This collision caused massive damage, and kicked-up a giant dust cloud when the meteor hit the ground. This dust cloud blocked the rays and warmth of the sun, causing earth's weather to turn cold and destroying all plant life. As a result, plant-eating dinosaurs and other animals starved to death. Meat-eating dinosaurs that ate these animals and plant-eating dinosaurs were then left with nothing to eat.



1

**Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago.
- B Plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death because all plant-life died when the weather changed.
- C The meteor created a giant dust cloud when it hit the ground.
- D Dinosaurs disappeared when a meteor hit earth, changing the weather that killed plant life and left dinosaurs without food.



*The summary tells you what the paragraph is about, and includes key details. Which answer does this?*

2

**Which detail best explains why plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death?**

- A "Dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago."
- B "As a result, plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death."
- C "Meat-eating dinosaurs that ate plant-eating dinosaurs were then left with nothing to eat."
- D "This dust cloud blocked the rays and warmth of the sun, causing earth's weather to turn cold and destroying all plant life."



*"Explains" means "shows." Which detail shows why plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death?*

3

**Based on information in the text, what caused a giant dust cloud to form?**

- A cold weather
- B a meteor colliding with the earth
- C giant dinosaurs kicking up dust
- D the warmth of the sun



*When you see "based on information in the text," use the paragraph to help you answer the question. The answer will be right there!*

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Christopher Columbus Mistakes America for India

People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived. These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians. This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India. He called the locals Indians and the name stuck.



#### 1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph ?

- A Christopher Columbus and his men landed in India and named the people that lived there Indians.
- B People that live in India are called American Indians.
- C When Christopher Columbus landed in the United States (America), he mistakenly thought he was in India and that's why he called the people there Indians.
- D Christopher Columbus and his men tried to sail to India.

*Main Idea + Key Details = Summary.*

#### 2 Which sentence best explains the reason why Columbus called Native Americans, "Indians"?

- A "This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India."
- B "People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived."
- C "He called the locals Indians and the name stuck."
- D "These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians."

*"Explains" means "tells." Pick the sentence that tells why Columbus called Native Americans, "Indians."*

#### 3 Which sentence suggests Christopher Columbus had made a mistake sailing his ships?

- A "People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived."
- B "These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians."
- C "This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India."
- D "He called the locals Indians and the name stuck."

*"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows Columbus mistakenly sailed his ships to the wrong place.*



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Long ago, Egyptians wore jewelry, makeup, and clothes made of white linen. After all, looking nice was important to the Egyptian people. Most everyone, men and women, wore jewelry of some type. The rich wore jewelry made of gold and silver, while the poor used copper, the same material that pennies are made of. Makeup was important as well, and worn by both men and women. They had cosmetic cases they would carry around. The main type of makeup used was eye paint. Because it was so hot, most people wore white linen clothes mainly to deflect the sun's rays. White linen also looked nice. Men wore kilts, which looks like a skirt, and women wore a straight dress. Slaves and servants would wear fabrics with simple patterns.



**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of the paragraph?

- A "Slaves and servants would wear fabrics with simple patterns."
- B "Long ago, Egyptians wore jewelry, makeup, and clothes made of white linen."
- C "After all, looking nice was important to the Egyptian people."
- D "Makeup was important as well, and worn by both men and women."



*What does the paragraph talk mostly about?*

**2** According to the paragraph, why did Egyptians mainly wear clothes made of white linen?

- A white kilts and dresses look the best
- B to deflect the sun's rays because it was so hot
- C white looks nice with any makeup color and any kind of jewelry
- D white linen always looks nice and clean



*The answer is right there in the paragraph when you see "according to the paragraph." It's an easy, free point!*

**3** How did the Egyptian people make themselves look nice in the past? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.

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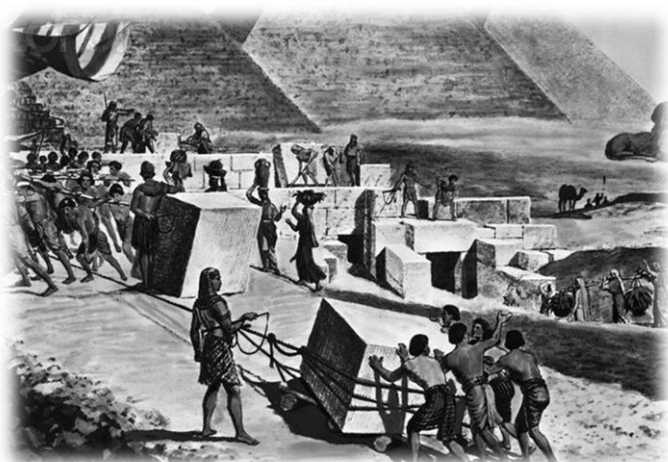


- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways Egyptian people made themselves look nice.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "Egyptian people made themselves look nice in the past by..."

Directions: Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Building the Egyptian Pyramids

How were the great Egyptian pyramids built? While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know. It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps. The pyramid would be slowly built, one block at a time. Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid. Because it took so long to build them, young Egyptian kings called Pharaohs, started building their pyramids as soon as they became ruler.



1 Which sentence best describes the main idea of the paragraph?

- A "How were the great Egyptian pyramids built?"
- B "While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know."
- C "Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid."
- D "It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps."



Think about what the paragraph is mostly about. Also, use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and picture for clues.

2 Which detail best explains how the large blocks were moved up the pyramid?

- A "While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know."
- B "The pyramid would be slowly built, one block at a time."
- C "Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid."
- D "It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps."



"Explains" means "tells." Which detail tells how large blocks were moved up the pyramid?

3 Which details suggest that building a pyramid took a lot of time? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.

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- Go back into the paragraph to find two details that show pyramids took a long time to build.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "The details that suggest pyramids took a long time to build are..."

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

### Where is Mario's Baseball Glove?

Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere. He hadn't used the glove since last spring. He looked under his bed. He looked in his closet. He even looked in his brother's bedroom. Finally, he asked his mother if she knew where it was. She said it was right where he had left it— in the basement in his baseball equipment bag.




#### 1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?

- A Mario asks his mom where his baseball glove is.
- B Mario had not played baseball since last spring.
- C Mario loses his glove all the time.
- D Mario looks all over his house for his glove, and finds it in the basement.

 Main Idea + Key Details = Summary


#### 2 Which sentence best supports the paragraph's main idea?

- A "He hadn't used the glove since last spring."
- B "Mario's mom told him it was in the basement."
- C "The glove was in his baseball equipment bag."
- D "Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere."

 You can often figure out the main idea by checking the title, looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and the picture.


#### 3 Which sentence best supports the idea that Mario had not played baseball in a while?

- A "Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere."
- B "Finally, he asked his mother if she knew where it was."
- C "He hadn't used the glove since last spring."
- D "He even looked in his brother's bedroom."

 "Supports the idea" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows that Mario hadn't played baseball in a while.

#### 4 According to the paragraph, Mario looked in all of the following places for his glove EXCEPT:

- A kitchen
- B basement
- C closet
- D under the bed

 • When you see "according to the paragraph," use the paragraph to help you pick an answer.  
• Pick the place Mario did not look when trying to find his glove.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Ben's Awful Morning

Ben had a terrible morning. Ben had forgotten to set his alarm clock, so he overslept. As a result, he missed the school bus. When he got to school, he could not find his science book in his desk. The only pencil that he had broke, and he got five problems wrong on his homework. He wanted the day to be over with and hoped his day would be better tomorrow.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the story?**

- A "When he got to school, Ben could not find his science book in his desk."
- B "As a result, he missed the school bus."
- C "He had forgotten to set his alarm clock, so he overslept."
- D "Ben had a terrible morning."



Think about what the paragraph is mostly about. Use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and picture to help you.

**2 According to the paragraph, what caused Ben to miss the school bus?**

- A Ben had a terrible morning.
- B He overslept because he forgot to set his alarm clock.
- C He could not find his science book.
- D His pencil broke while doing his homework the night before.



When you see "according to the paragraph," the answer is right there in the paragraph!

**3 Which sentence suggests Ben had given up for the day?**

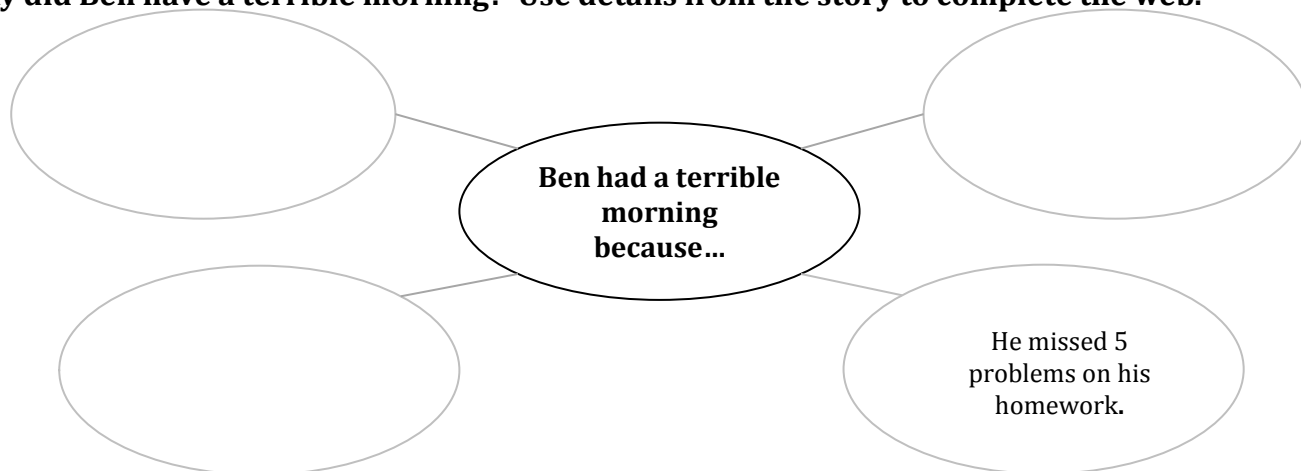
- A "Ben had a terrible morning."
- B "Ben wanted the day to be over with, and hoped his day would be better tomorrow."
- C "When he got to school, Ben could not find his science book in his desk."
- D "As a result, he missed the school bus."



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows that Ben had given up for the day.

**BONUS!**

**Why did Ben have a terrible morning? Use details from the story to complete the web.**



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### The Fox and the Grapes

Fox was walking through the woods. He saw some grapes on a vine. "How delicious they look!" he exclaimed. He decided to have some grapes for lunch. The grapes were quite high and it was hard for Fox to reach them, so he jumped. He could not get the grapes—they were too high. Fox tried again and again but the grapes always seemed just out of reach. Finally, Fox gave up. He walked away saying "who wants those sour old grapes anyway."



**1** What is the main lesson of the story?

- A Fox likes to eat fresh fruit.
- B It is easy to dislike what you cannot have.
- C Hard work pays off in the end.
- D Grapes are usually too high to reach.



Ask yourself "What lesson is the story REALLY trying to teach me?"

**2** Which is the best summary of this story?

- A Fox wants to eat grapes on the vine, but they are too high to reach.
- B Fox walks through the woods and gets lunch.
- C Fox jumps higher and higher.
- D Fox is not a quitter.



A summary includes all the major parts of the story. Which answer does this?

**3** Which sentence suggests that Fox was upset?

- A "How delicious they look!"
- B "Fox tried again and again but the grapes always seemed just out of reach."
- C "The grapes were quite high and it was hard for Fox to reach them, so he jumped."
- D "He walked away saying "who wants those sour old grapes anyway.""



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows Fox was upset.



**Why do you think Fox said "who wants those sour old grapes anyway"? Do you think the grapes were really sour and old? Why or why not?**

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Helping Ms. Smith Afterschool

Lisa often had to stay after school and wait until her sister picked her up. While she waited afterschool, she liked to help her teacher, Ms. Smith. Sometimes she washed the chalkboard. Other times she helped grade papers and put them on the bulletin board. Her favorite thing to do was feed the class hamster, Mickey. Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up.



**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of story?

- A "Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up."
- B "While she waited afterschool, she liked to help her teacher, Ms. Smith."
- C "Sometimes she washed the chalkboard."
- D "Her favorite thing to do was help feed the class hamster, Mickey."



The main idea is what the paragraph talks mostly about. Use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and picture to help you.

**2** Which detail suggests that Lisa liked animals?

- A "Her favorite thing to do was feed the class hamster, Mickey."
- B "Sometimes she washed the chalkboard."
- C "Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up."
- D "Lisa liked to stay after school to help her teacher, Ms. Smith."



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows Lisa liked animals.

**3** How does Lisa show that she is a helpful student? Use two details from the story to support your response.

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- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways Lisa shows that she is helpful.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "Lisa shows that she is helpful by...."

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

James was so hungry! He had eaten very little all day. He had been late for school and ate only half a bagel for breakfast. At lunch, he stayed in the classroom to get some extra math help from his teacher, Ms. Nelson and didn't finish his sandwich. After school, James had to do some chores for Ms. Nelson before going home, so he did not have a snack. Now his stomach was grumbling. He hurried to the kitchen to see what was for dinner. It was his favorite—tacos!



**1 Which is the best summary of this story?**

- A James has tacos for dinner.
- B James ate very little for breakfast and lunch, and was starving by dinner time.
- C James worked with Ms. Nelson both during lunch and afterschool.
- D James had a busy day.



The summary includes the main idea AND the most important facts in the story. Which answer has this?

**2 Which detail suggests the idea that James took his school work seriously?**

- A "He had eaten very little all day."
- B "He had been late for school and ate only half a bagel for breakfast."
- C "He had to do some chores for Ms. Nelson before going home, so he did not have a snack."
- D "He stayed in the classroom to get some extra math help from her teacher, Ms. Nelson and didn't finish his sandwich."



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows that James took his school work seriously.

**3 What caused James to eat very little during the day? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

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- Go back into the paragraph to find two reasons why James ate very little during the day.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "James ate very little during the day because..."

# UNASSISTED DRILLS





**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

### The Diet of Killer Whales

1 Killer whales hunt everything from fish to walruses—  
2 seals, sea lions, penguins, squid, sea turtles, sharks,  
3 and even other whales. Depending on the season and  
4 where they are located, their diet varies—some killer  
5 whales eat more fish and squid than seals and penguins.  
6 But wherever they are in any of the world's oceans, the  
7 average killer whale may eat about 500 pounds of food a  
8 day. They do not chew their food. They can swallow small  
9 seals and sea lions whole. Bigger prey is eaten in chunks.



**1 Which detail best supports the paragraph's main idea?**

- A Killer whales do not chew their food.
- B Killer whales can swallow some prey whole.
- C The average killer whale may eat about 500 pounds of food a day.
- D Killer whales hunt and eat everything from fish and walruses, to sea turtles and sharks.

**2 Which detail from the paragraph explains why a killer whale might not need teeth?**

- A "They can swallow small seals and sea lions whole."
- B "Bigger prey is eaten in chunks."
- C "The average killer whale can eat up to 500 pounds of food a day."
- D "Some killer whales eat more fish and squid than seals and penguins."

**3 Which line in the paragraph suggests killer whales cannot swallow everything they eat whole?**

- A Line 6
- B Line 7
- C Line 8
- D Line 9

**4 Based on information in the paragraph, killer whales eat all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A whales
- B sea lions
- C sea turtles
- D alligators

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### How Skunks Defend Themselves!

Skunks use a smelly spray to defend themselves against their enemies. The spray, which comes from two glands near the base of the skunk's tail, can hit a target 12 feet away. If you are lucky, you may get a warning before being sprayed. If threatened, skunks stamp their front feet, lift their tail, and growl. Some species of skunk even spring into a handstand before spraying, which puts the skunk's warning markings on full display. If the person or animal doesn't retreat, the skunk aims the spray at the eyes, allowing the skunk to escape. The spray can remain on its target for days.



**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A "The spray can remain on its target for days."
- B "Skunks use a smelly spray to defend themselves against their enemies."
- C "The spray, which comes from two glands near the base of the skunk's tail, can hit a target 12 feet away."
- D "If the person or animal doesn't retreat, the skunk aims the spray at the eyes..."

**2** Skunks will warn their enemies by doing all of the following EXCEPT:

- A growling
- B doing a handstand and lifting their tail
- C stamping their front feet
- D kicking dirt in the air

**3** According to the paragraph, where does the skunk aim its spray?

- A at the bushes 12 feet away
- B at the animal or person's eyes
- C at the animal's tail
- D it does not aim its spray

**BONUS!** Based on your answer in question 3, why do you think the skunk aims its spray at this specific spot?

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

An ostrich will either run, fight or hide when in danger. While it cannot fly, it can run up to 40 miles per hour. It can also use its strong legs for self-defense. An ostrich will kick with a force mighty enough to kill a lion. When danger approaches, an ostrich will often lie low to hide, stretching its neck along the ground. Its feather colors blend with the sandy soil where it lives.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?**

- A "While it cannot fly, it can run up to 40 miles per hour."
- B "It can also use its strong legs for self-defense."
- C "An ostrich will either run, fight or hide when in danger."
- D "An ostrich will kick with a force mighty enough to kill a lion."

**2 Ostriches will do all of the following to protect itself EXCEPT:**

- A use its legs to kick
- B run away
- C hide
- D fly away

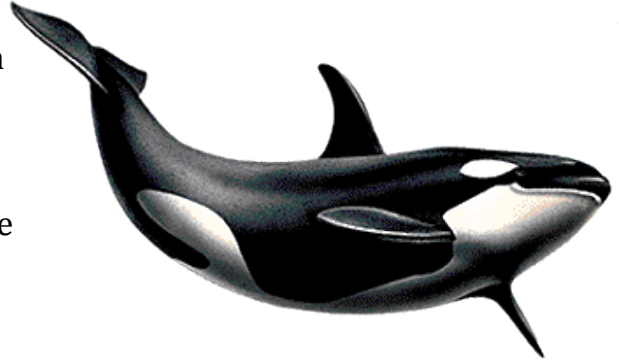
**3 According to the text, how does an ostrich's feathers help protect the bird from its enemies?**

- A The feathers help ostriches fly.
- B The color of its feathers help ostriches blend in with the sandy soil.
- C An ostrich will flap its feathers into an enemy's face so it cannot see.
- D An ostrich will hide its head in its feathers.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### How the Color Pattern of the Killer Whale Helps It Hunt

The color pattern of killer whales helps them sneak up on and attack their prey. Their backs are black, their stomachs are white. Animals looking down on a killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it's black color blends with the water below. On the other hand, the killer whale's white belly blends with the sunlight streaming down into the sea from the surface, making it hard to spot from below. With killer whales blending in so well, fish, penguins, and seals are likely unaware of the danger heading their way.



A killer whale has a white belly and black back.

#### 1 Read the detail below:

*“Animals looking down on an killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it’s black color blends with the water below.”*

**Why is this sentence important to the main idea of the paragraph?**

- A It proves that seals are not smart animals.
- B It shows how the killer whale got its name.
- C It describes how the killer whale swims in the water when it hunts.
- D It shows how the color pattern of the killer whale can help it sneak up on and attack their prey.

#### 2 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A “Their backs are black, their stomachs are white.”
- B “On the other hand, the killer whale's white belly blends with the sunlight streaming down into the sea from the surface, making it hard to spot from below.”
- C “The color pattern of killer whales helps them sneak up on and attack their prey.”
- D “Animals looking down on an killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it’s black color blends with the water below.”

#### 3 Based on the paragraph, what might an animal in the water mistake a killer whale’s belly for?

- A ice
- B sunlight
- C blue whale
- D water

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

The father penguin is responsible for keeping the mother penguin’s egg warm and safe while she goes out to sea to find food. The father penguin balances the egg on his feet and covers it with his brood pouch. The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy. There the male stands with the egg, for about 60 days, through freezing temperatures, blinding storms and gusty winds. Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick. The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find his own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick.



A father penguin keeps an egg warm.

**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?**

- A “The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find their own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick.”
- B “Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick.”
- C “The father penguin is responsible for keeping the mother penguin’s egg warm and safe while she goes out to sea to find food.”
- D “The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy.”

**2 Which detail best supports the idea that father penguins are patient and strong?**

- A “The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find their own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick.”
- B “There the male stands with the egg, for about 60 days, through freezing temperatures, blinding storms and gusty winds.”
- C “The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy.”
- D “Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick.”

**3 How do mother and father penguins take care of their young? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

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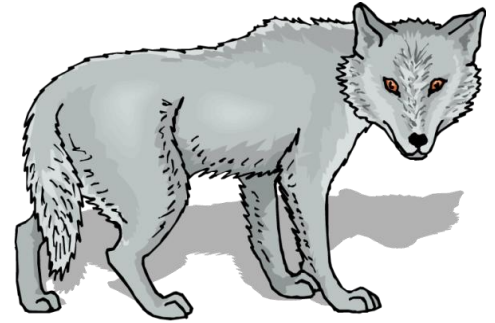
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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Wolves communicate in many different ways, besides howling! They whimper and whine, growl and bark, snarl and yelp. They also use scents created by their bodies to communicate. One source of scent is urine, which they use to mark territory, and to tell other wolves in their own pack where they are. Another way wolves communicate is through body language. If a wolf feels confident, it will approach another wolf with its head and tail held high and ears perked up. If you saw a wolf slinking toward another with its body lowered, its tail between its legs, and its ears flattened, it's a sign the approaching wolf is not the dominant animal.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Dominant wolves will approach other wolves with its head and tail held high, with its ears perked up.
- B Wolves mark their territory with scents to tell other wolves in their pack where they are.
- C Wolves communicate with each other through scents, body language and making noises.
- D Wolves communicate by howling, and confident wolves will have their tails between their legs and ears flattened.

**2 Which detail from the paragraph best explains when a wolf is not the dominant animal?**

- A "They whimper and whine, growl and bark, snarl and yelp."
- B "They also use scents created by their bodies to communicate..."
- C "If a wolf feels confident, it will approach another wolf with its head and tail held high..."
- D "If you saw a wolf slinking toward another with its body lowered, its tail between its legs, and its ears flattened..."

**3 What do wolves use scents for? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

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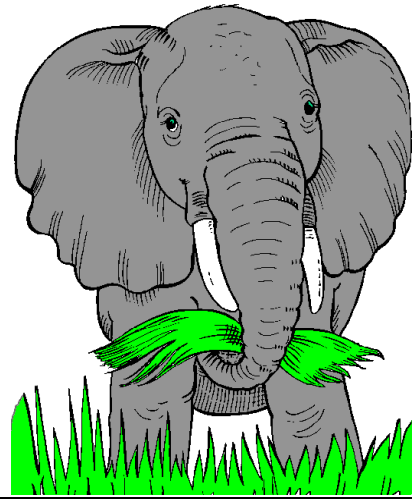
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Directions: Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

1        Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways. Their  
 2 trunks can be used as snorkels when an elephant wades in deep water.  
 3 Elephants can also use its trunk to grasp an entire tree branch and  
 4 pull it down to its mouth, and to yank up clumps of grasses and  
 5 shove the greenery into their mouths. They sometimes hug by  
 6 wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection.  
 7 Elephants also use their trunks to help lift or nudge an baby elephant  
 8 (calf) over an obstacle, to rescue a fellow elephant stuck in mud, or to  
 9 gently raise a newborn elephant to its feet. Last, much like a  
 10 human baby sucks its thumb, an elephant calf often sucks its trunk for  
 11 comfort.



1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the passage?

- A "They sometimes hug by wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection."
- B "Last, much like a human baby sucks its thumb, an elephant calf often sucks its trunk for comfort."
- C "Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways."
- D "Their trunks can be used as snorkels when an elephant wades in deep water."

2 Which line in the paragraph explains how an elephant breathes when under water?

- A Line 1
- B Line 2
- C Line 5
- D Line 7

3 According to the paragraph, what do elephants do similar to humans?

- A Both elephants and humans can use snorkels when under water.
- B For comfort, elephant calves (babies) will suck their trunk much like human babies suck their thumbs.
- C Elephants will use their trunks to eat, much like humans will use their hands to eat.
- D Both elephants and humans will rescue each other if stuck in the mud.

4 How do elephants use their trunks to care for each other? Use two details from the story to support your response.

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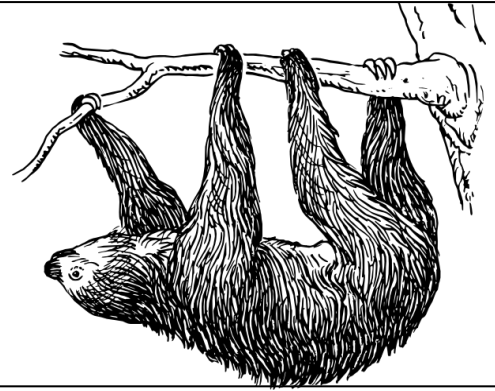
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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Sloths move slowly and use their environment to avoid getting caught by its enemies. By moving slowly, sloths are less noticeable to predators such as hawks and big cats, which rely heavily on their eyesight when hunting. The algae that grows on sloths' fur also helps them avoid predators by letting them blend in with green leaves. If they are caught by a predator, sloths turn from sluggish to slugger, biting fiercely, hissing, slashing with their claws, and shrieking.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Sloths allow algae to grow on their fur so that they can blend in with their surroundings.
- B Hawks and big cats rely heavily on their eyesight when hunting.
- C Sloths move slowly and use algae to blend in with its surroundings to avoid being caught by enemies, and will fight fiercely if caught.
- D Sloths may seem like peaceful animals, but they will bite, hiss and slash with their claws if they are caught.

**2 Sloths will defend themselves if caught by doing all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A hissing and shrieking
- B biting
- C slashing with their claws
- D kicking

**3 How do sloths avoid getting caught by its enemies? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Killer whales have many hunting techniques. Bumping seals off the ice is just one of them. Known by scientists as the wolves of the sea, killer whales hunt together in cooperative pods, or family groups, much like a pack of wolves. Groups of killer whales cooperate to herd fish into a small, tight area so that they're easier to eat. They will also slap their tails onto the water's surface, causing a wave to wash prey, such as penguins or sea lions, off the ice and into the water. Sometimes a pod of killer whales will surround a larger animal, such as a blue whale. They will chase, bite, and wear down the whale until it becomes a meal.



**1 Which sentence best describes the main idea of the story?**

- A "They will also slap their tails onto the water's surface, causing a wave to wash prey, such as penguins or sea lions, off the ice and into the water."
- B "Killer whales have many hunting techniques."
- C "Sometimes a pod of killer whales will surround a larger animal, such as a blue whale."
- D "They will chase, bite, and wear down the whale until it becomes a meal."

**2 According to the paragraph, why do killer whales slap their tails onto the water's surface?**

- A to trap fish into a small, tight area so that the pod of killer whales can eat them
- B to gain speed while chasing larger animals, such as blue whales
- C to bump prey, such as sea lions, off the ice and into the water
- D to keep its enemies and other dangerous animals away

**3 How do killer whales work together to hunt for food? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

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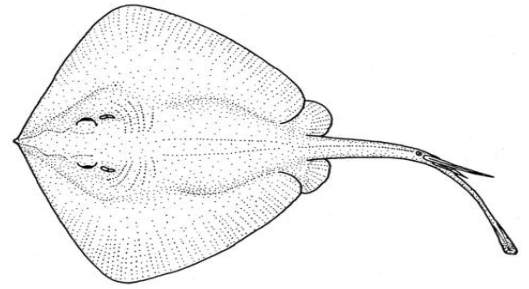


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Directions: Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

**What Do Stingrays Rely on for Self-Defense?**

Stingrays have tails that are armed for defense. Some stingrays have a spine in their tail with a very sharp point and edges that are serrated or notched. Many species, including the blue-spotted stingray, have venom (or poison) that is delivered through their tails. That venom, and the sharp spine itself, can be dangerous to humans.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Stingrays are dangerous to humans.
- B Stingrays have sharp and/or poisonous tails for self-defense.
- C Every stingray has a sharp tail with serrated edges.
- D The white-spotted stingray is a harmless animal.

**2 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?**

- A "That venom, and the sharp spine itself, can be dangerous to humans."
- B "Stingrays have tails that are armed for defense."
- C "Many species, including the blue-spotted stingray, have venom (or poison) that is delivered through their tails."
- D "Some stingrays have a spine in their tail with a very sharp point and edges that are serrated or notched."

**3 How is the stingray's tail dangerous to humans? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

When camping, it is fun to make a camp fire to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows. However, campers should be careful with fires. A fire should be built in a safe place. Some parks have pits in the ground where campers can build a fire. If there isn't a pit, campers can make a circle using rocks and build the fire within the circle. Also, a fire should be watched at all times and should not be left alone until it is completely out. If an uncontrolled fire is seen, it should be reported to a firefighter as soon as possible.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A While camp fires are fun, they should be built in a safe place and completely put out when finished.
- B Camp fires are fun, but cause many forest fires.
- C Camp fires should be built in a safe place.
- D Campers should tell a firefighter if they see an uncontrolled fire.

**2 Which sentence suggests that camp fires can be dangerous without supervision?**

- A "When camping, it is fun to make a camp fire to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows."
- B "If there isn't a pit, campers can make a circle using rocks and build the fire within the circle."
- C "Some parks have pits in the ground where campers can build a fire."
- D "Also, a fire should be watched at all times and should not be left alone until it is completely out."

**3 How can a camp fire be built safely? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### What Made The Dinosaurs Disappear?

Dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago. Scientists believe almost all animal life on earth died out due to a large meteor that collided with earth. A meteor is a large space rock. This collision caused massive damage, and kicked-up a giant dust cloud when the meteor hit the ground. This dust cloud blocked the rays and warmth of the sun, causing earth's weather to turn cold and destroying all plant life. As a result, plant-eating dinosaurs and other animals starved to death. Meat-eating dinosaurs that ate these animals and plant-eating dinosaurs were then left with nothing to eat.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago.
- B Plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death because all plant-life died when the weather changed.
- C The meteor created a giant dust cloud when it hit the ground.
- D Dinosaurs disappeared when a meteor hit earth, changing the weather that killed plant life and left dinosaurs without food.

**2 Which detail best explains why plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death?**

- A "Dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago."
- B "As a result, plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death."
- C "Meat-eating dinosaurs that ate plant-eating dinosaurs were then left with nothing to eat."
- D "This dust cloud blocked the rays and warmth of the sun, causing earth's weather to turn cold and destroying all plant life."

**3 Based on information in the text, what caused a giant dust cloud to form?**

- A cold weather
- B a meteor colliding with the earth
- C giant dinosaurs kicking up dust
- D the warmth of the sun

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Christopher Columbus Mistakes America for India

People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived. These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians. This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India. He called the locals Indians and the name stuck.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph ?**

- A Christopher Columbus and his men landed in India and named the people that lived there Indians.
- B People that live in India are called American Indians.
- C When Christopher Columbus landed in the United States (America), he mistakenly thought he was in India and that's why he called the people there Indians.
- D Christopher Columbus and his men tried to sail to India.

**2 Which sentence best explains the reason why Columbus called Native Americans, "Indians"?**

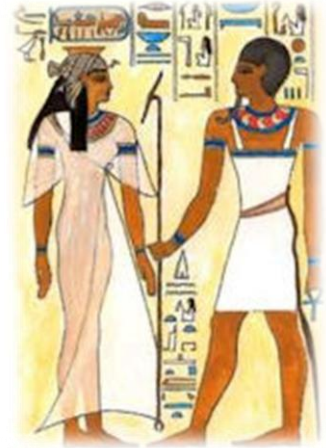
- A "This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India."
- B "People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived."
- C "He called the locals Indians and the name stuck."
- D "These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians."

**3 Which sentence suggests Christopher Columbus had made a mistake sailing his ships?**

- A "People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived."
- B "These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians."
- C "This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India."
- D "He called the locals Indians and the name stuck."

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Long ago, Egyptians wore jewelry, makeup, and clothes made of white linen. After all, looking nice was important to the Egyptian people. Most everyone, men and women, wore jewelry of some type. The rich wore jewelry made of gold and silver, while the poor used copper, the same material that pennies are made of. Makeup was important as well, and worn by both men and women. They had cosmetic cases they would carry around. The main type of makeup used was eye paint. Because it was so hot, most people wore white linen clothes mainly to deflect the sun's rays. White linen also looked nice. Men wore kilts, which looks like a skirt, and women wore a straight dress. Slaves and servants would wear fabrics with simple patterns.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the paragraph?**

- A "Slaves and servants would wear fabrics with simple patterns."
- B "Long ago, Egyptians wore jewelry, makeup, and clothes made of white linen."
- C "After all, looking nice was important to the Egyptian people."
- D "Makeup was important as well, and worn by both men and women."

**2 According to the paragraph, why did Egyptians mainly wear clothes made of white linen?**

- A white kilts and dresses look the best
- B to deflect the sun's rays because it was so hot
- C white looks nice with any makeup color and any kind of jewelry
- D white linen always looks nice and clean

**3 How did the Egyptian people make themselves look nice in the past? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

**Building the Egyptian Pyramids**

How were the great Egyptian pyramids built? While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know. It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps. The pyramid would be slowly built, one block at a time. Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid. Because it took so long to build them, young Egyptian kings called Pharaohs, started building their pyramids as soon as they became ruler.



**1 Which sentence best describes the main idea of the paragraph?**

- A "How were the great Egyptian pyramids built?"
- B "While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know."
- C "Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid."
- D "It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps."

**2 Which detail best explains how the large blocks were moved up the pyramid?**

- A "While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know."
- B "The pyramid would be slowly built, one block at a time."
- C "Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid."
- D "It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps."

**3 Which details suggest that building a pyramid took a lot of time? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

### Where is Mario's Baseball Glove?

Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere. He hadn't used the glove since last spring. He looked under his bed. He looked in his closet. He even looked in his brother's bedroom. Finally, he asked his mother if she knew where it was. She said it was right where he had left it— in the basement in his baseball equipment bag.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Mario asks his mom where his baseball glove is.
- B Mario had not played baseball since last spring.
- C Mario loses his glove all the time.
- D Mario looks all over his house for his glove, and finds it in the basement.

**2 Which sentence best supports the paragraph's main idea?**

- A "He hadn't used the glove since last spring."
- B "Mario's mom told him it was in the basement."
- C "The glove was in his baseball equipment bag."
- D "Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere."

**3 Which sentence best supports the idea that Mario had not played baseball in a while?**

- A "Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere."
- B "Finally, he asked his mother if she knew where it was."
- C "He hadn't used the glove since last spring."
- D "He even looked in his brother's bedroom."

**4 According to the paragraph, Mario looked in all of the following places for his glove EXCEPT:**

- A kitchen
- B basement
- C closet
- D under the bed



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Ben's Awful Morning

Ben had a terrible morning. Ben had forgotten to set his alarm clock, so he overslept. As a result, he missed the school bus. When he got to school, he could not find his science book in his desk. The only pencil that he had broke, and he got five problems wrong on his homework. He wanted the day to be over with and hoped his day would be better tomorrow.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the story?**

- A "When he got to school, Ben could not find his science book in his desk."
- B "As a result, he missed the school bus."
- C "He had forgotten to set his alarm clock, so he overslept."
- D "Ben had a terrible morning."

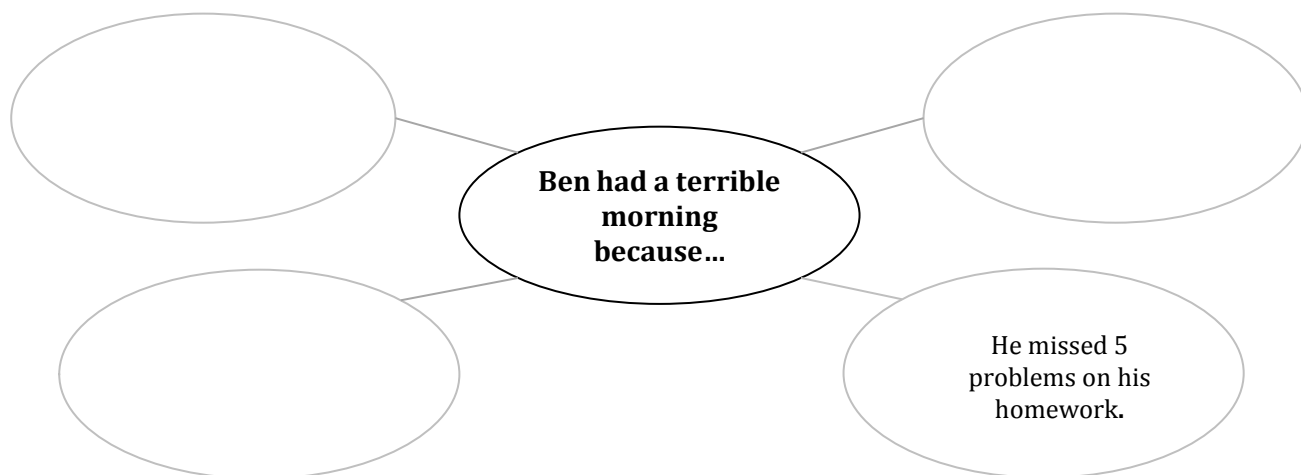
**2 According to the paragraph, what caused Ben to miss the school bus?**

- A Ben had a terrible morning.
- B He overslept because he forgot to set his alarm clock.
- C He could not find his science book.
- D His pencil broke while doing his homework the night before.

**3 Which sentence suggests Ben had given up for the day?**

- A "Ben had a terrible morning."
- B "Ben wanted the day to be over with, and hoped his day would be better tomorrow."
- C "When he got to school, Ben could not find his science book in his desk."
- D "As a result, he missed the school bus."

**BONUS!** Why did Ben have a terrible morning? Use details from the story to complete the web.



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### The Fox and the Grapes

Fox was walking through the woods. He saw some grapes on a vine. "How delicious they look!" he exclaimed. He decided to have some grapes for lunch. The grapes were quite high and it was hard for Fox to reach them, so he jumped. He could not get the grapes—they were too high. Fox tried again and again but the grapes always seemed just out of reach. Finally, Fox gave up. He walked away saying "who wants those sour old grapes anyway."



**1** What is the main lesson of the story?

- A Fox likes to eat fresh fruit.
- B It is easy to dislike what you cannot have.
- C Hard work pays off in the end.
- D Grapes are usually too high to reach.

**2** Which is the best summary of this story?

- A Fox wants to eat grapes on the vine, but they are too high to reach.
- B Fox walks through the woods and gets lunch.
- C Fox jumps higher and higher.
- D Fox is not a quitter.

**3** Which sentence suggests that Fox was upset?

- A "How delicious they look!"
- B "Fox tried again and again but the grapes always seemed just out of reach."
- C "The grapes were quite high and it was hard for Fox to reach them, so he jumped."
- D "He walked away saying "who wants those sour old grapes anyway.'"



Why do you think Fox said "who wants those sour old grapes anyway"? Do you think the grapes were really sour and old? Why or why not?

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Helping Ms. Smith Afterschool

Lisa often had to stay after school and wait until her sister picked her up. While she waited afterschool, she liked to help her teacher, Ms. Smith. Sometimes she washed the chalkboard. Other times she helped grade papers and put them on the bulletin board. Her favorite thing to do was feed the class hamster, Mickey. Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of story?**

- A "Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up."
- B "While she waited afterschool, she liked to help her teacher, Ms. Smith."
- C "Sometimes she washed the chalkboard."
- D "Her favorite thing to do was help feed the class hamster, Mickey."

**2 Which detail suggests that Lisa liked animals?**

- A "Her favorite thing to do was feed the class hamster, Mickey."
- B "Sometimes she washed the chalkboard."
- C "Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up."
- D "Lisa liked to stay after school to help her teacher, Ms. Smith."

**3 How does Lisa show that she is a helpful student? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

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**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

James was so hungry! He had eaten very little all day. He had been late for school and ate only half a bagel for breakfast. At lunch, he stayed in the classroom to get some extra math help from his teacher, Ms. Nelson and didn't finish his sandwich. After school, James had to do some chores for Ms. Nelson before going home, so he did not have a snack. Now his stomach was grumbling. He hurried to the kitchen to see what was for dinner. It was his favorite—tacos!



**1 Which is the best summary of this story?**

- A James has tacos for dinner.
- B James ate very little for breakfast and lunch, and was starving by dinner time.
- C James worked with Ms. Nelson both during lunch and afterschool.
- D James had a busy day.

**2 Which detail suggests the idea that James took his school work seriously?**

- A "He had eaten very little all day."
- B "He had been late for school and ate only half a bagel for breakfast."
- C "He had to do some chores for Ms. Nelson before going home, so he did not have a snack."
- D "He stayed in the classroom to get some extra math help from her teacher, Ms. Nelson and didn't finish his sandwich."

**3 What caused James to eat very little during the day? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

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# ANSWER KEYS



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

### The Diet of Killer Whales

1 Killer whales hunt everything from fish to walruses—  
 2 seals, sea lions, penguins, squid, sea turtles, sharks,  
 3 and even other whales. Depending on the season and  
 4 where they are located, their diet varies—some killer  
 5 whales eat more fish and squid than seals and penguins.  
 6 But wherever they are in any of the world's oceans, the  
 7 average killer whale may eat about 500 pounds of food a  
 8 day. They do not chew their food. They can swallow small  
 9 seals and sea lions whole. Bigger prey is eaten in chunks.




**1 Which detail best supports the paragraph's main idea?**

- A Killer whales do not chew their food.
- B Killer whales can swallow some prey whole.
- C The average killer whale may eat about 500 pounds of food a day.
- D **Killer whales hunt and eat everything from fish and walruses, to sea turtles and sharks.**

 The question is asking you to pick the detail that helps explain the main idea.

**2 Which detail from the paragraph explains why a killer whale might not need teeth?**

- A **"They can swallow small seals and sea lions whole."**
- B "Bigger prey is eaten in chunks."
- C "The average killer whale can eat up to 500 pounds of food a day."
- D "Some killer whales eat more fish and squid than seals and penguins."

 "Explains" means "shows." Which detail shows why a killer whale might not need teeth when eating?

**3 Which line in the paragraph suggests killer whales cannot swallow everything they eat whole?**

- A Line 6
- B Line 7
- C Line 8
- D **Line 9**

 Go back into the paragraph to find the line that suggests killer whales can't swallow everything they eat whole.

**4 Based on information in the paragraph, killer whales eat all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A whales
- B sea lions
- C sea turtles
- D **alligators**



Use the paragraph to find out which animal killer whales don't eat.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### How Skunks Defend Themselves!

Skunks use a smelly spray to defend themselves against their enemies. The spray, which comes from two glands near the base of the skunk's tail, can hit a target 12 feet away. If you are lucky, you may get a warning before being sprayed. If threatened, skunks stamp their front feet, lift their tail, and growl. Some species of skunk even spring into a handstand before spraying, which puts the skunk's warning markings on full display. If the person or animal doesn't retreat, the skunk aims the spray at the eyes, allowing the skunk to escape. The spray can remain on its target for days.



**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A "The spray can remain on its target for days."
- B **"Skunks use a smelly spray to defend themselves against their enemies."**
- C "The spray, which comes from two glands near the base of the skunk's tail, can hit a target 12 feet away."
- D "If the person or animal doesn't retreat, the skunk aims the spray at the eyes..."

 Follow these steps to find the main idea!

1. Think about what the paragraph was mostly about
2. Check the title
3. Read the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence
4. Look at the picture for a clue

**2** Skunks will warn their enemies by doing all of the following EXCEPT:

- A growling
- B doing a handstand and lifting their tail
- C stamping their front feet
- D **kicking dirt in the air**



"All of the following EXCEPT" means "everything but." Skunks will warn their enemies by doing everything but \_\_\_\_\_.

**3** According to the paragraph, where does the skunk aim its spray?

- A at the bushes 12 feet away
- B **at the animal or person's eyes**
- C at the animal's tail
- D it does not aim its spray



When you see "according to the paragraph," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It'll be right there!

**BONUS!** Based on your answer in question 3, why do you think the skunk aims its spray at this specific spot?

The skunk aims its spray at the person or animal's eyes so that they cannot see and are incapacitated (or something along these lines).

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

An ostrich will either run, fight or hide when in danger. While it cannot fly, it can run up to 40 miles per hour. It can also use its strong legs for self-defense. An ostrich will kick with a force mighty enough to kill a lion. When danger approaches, an ostrich will often lie low to hide, stretching its neck along the ground. Its feather colors blend with the sandy soil where it lives.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?**

- A "While it cannot fly, it can run up to 40 miles per hour."
- B "It can also use its strong legs for self-defense."
- C **"An ostrich will either run, fight or hide when in danger."**
- D "An ostrich will kick with a force mighty enough to kill a lion."



*The main idea is what the paragraph talks mostly about. Which answer does this?*

**2 Ostriches will do all of the following to protect itself EXCEPT:**

- A use its legs to kick
- B run away
- C hide
- D **fly away**



*Ostriches will do all of the above to protect themselves from enemies but\_\_\_\_\_.*

**3 According to the text, how does an ostrich's feathers help protect the bird from its enemies?**

- A The feathers help ostriches fly.
- B **The color of its feathers help ostriches blend in with the sandy soil.**
- C An ostrich will flap its feathers into an enemy's face so it cannot see.
- D An ostrich will hide its head in its feathers.



*When you see "according to the text," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It's an easy point!*



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### How the Color Pattern of the Killer Whale Helps It Hunt

The color pattern of killer whales helps them sneak up on and attack their prey. Their backs are black, their stomachs are white. Animals looking down on a killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it's black color blends with the water below. On the other hand, the killer whale's white belly blends with the sunlight streaming down into the sea from the surface, making it hard to spot from below. With killer whales blending in so well, fish, penguins, and seals are likely unaware of the danger heading their way.



A killer whale has a white belly and black back.

#### 1 Read the detail below:

*“Animals looking down on an killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it’s black color blends with the water below.”*

**Why is this sentence important to the main idea of the paragraph?**

- A It proves that seals are not smart animals.
- B It shows how the killer whale got its name.
- C It describes how the killer whale swims in the water when it hunts.
- D **It shows how the color pattern of the killer whale can help it sneak up on and attack their prey.**

**This question is asking:** “Which of the answers above does the detail help explain? For example:

- Does the detail help explain that seals are not smart animals? *Not really.*
- Does the detail help explain how the killer whale got its name?
- Does the detail help explain how the killer whale swims when it hunts?
- Does the detail help explain how the color pattern of the killer whale helps it sneak up on and attack prey?

#### 2 Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A “Their backs are black, their stomachs are white.”
- B “On the other hand, the killer whale’s white belly blends with the sunlight streaming down into the sea from the surface, making it hard to spot from below.”
- C **“The color pattern of killer whales helps them sneak up on and attack their prey.”**
- D “Animals looking down on an killer whale from above, such as a seal on an iceberg, might not see the whale because it’s black color blends with the water below.”

*The main idea tells you what the paragraph is mostly about. Use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and image to give you a clue.*

#### 3 Based on the paragraph, what might an animal in the water mistake a killer whale’s belly for?

- A ice
- B **sunlight**
- C blue whale
- D water



*When you see “based on the paragraph,” find the answer in the paragraph!*

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

The father penguin is responsible for keeping the mother penguin's egg warm and safe while she goes out to sea to find food. The father penguin balances the egg on his feet and covers it with his brood pouch. The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy. There the male stands with the egg, for about 60 days, through freezing temperatures, blinding storms and gusty winds. Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick. The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find his own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick.



A father penguin keeps an egg warm.

**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A "The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find their own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick."
- B "Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick."
- C **"The father penguin is responsible for keeping the mother penguin's egg warm and safe while she goes out to sea to find food."**
- D "The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy."



The main idea tells you what the paragraph is mostly about. Which answer above does this?

**2** Which detail best supports the idea that father penguins are patient and strong?

- A "The male eagerly leaves for the sea to find their own food, and the mother takes over care of the chick."
- B **"There the male stands with the egg, for about 60 days, through freezing temperatures, blinding storms and gusty winds."**
- C "The pouch is a very warm layer of feathered skin designed to keep the egg cozy."
- D "Finally, after about two months, the female return from the sea with food that she regurgitates, or brings up, to feed the now hatched chick."



"Supports the idea" means "shows." Pick the answer that shows father penguins are patient and strong!

**3** How do mother and father penguins take care of their young? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

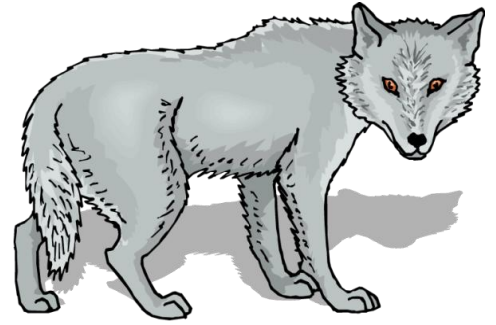
The mother takes care of her young by coming back with food and regurgitating it so that her baby chick can eat. The father penguin takes care of his young by keeping the egg safe and warm for ~60 days while the mother penguin goes out to sea to find food.



Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Wolves communicate in many different ways, besides howling! They whimper and whine, growl and bark, snarl and yelp. They also use scents created by their bodies to communicate. One source of scent is urine, which they use to mark territory, and to tell other wolves in their own pack where they are. Another way wolves communicate is through body language. If a wolf feels confident, it will approach another wolf with its head and tail held high and ears perked up. If you saw a wolf slinking toward another with its body lowered, its tail between its legs, and its ears flattened, it's a sign the approaching wolf is not the dominant animal.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Dominant wolves will approach other wolves with its head and tail held high, with its ears perked up.
- B Wolves mark their territory with scents to tell other wolves in their pack where they are.
- C **Wolves communicate with each other through scents, body language and making noises.**
- D Wolves communicate by howling, and confident wolves will have their tails between their legs and ears flattened.



*The summary tells you what the paragraph is about, including key details of the paragraph.*

**2 Which detail from the paragraph best explains when a wolf is not the dominant animal?**

- A "They whimper and whine, growl and bark, snarl and yelp."
- B "They also use scents created by their bodies to communicate..."
- C "If a wolf feels confident, it will approach another wolf with its head and tail held high..."
- D **"If you saw a wolf slinking toward another with its body lowered, its tail between its legs, and its ears flattened..."**



*Go back into the paragraph to see which detail tells when the wolf is not the dominant animal!*

**3 What do wolves use scents for? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

Wolves use scents to mark their territory.

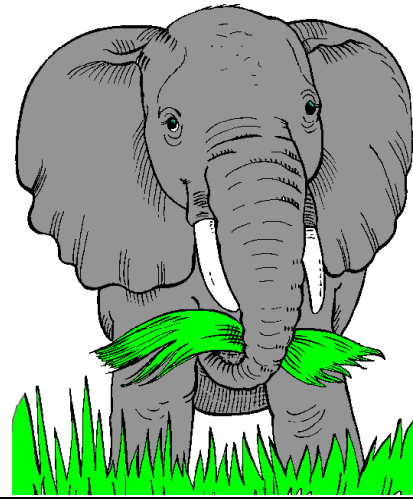
Wolves also use scents to let other wolves in their pack where they are located.



- *Go back into the paragraph to find two wolves use their scents.*
- *Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.*

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

1 Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways. Their  
 2 trunks can be used as snorkels when an elephant wades in deep water.  
 3 Elephants can also use its trunk to grasp an entire tree branch and  
 4 pull it down to its mouth, and to yank up clumps of grasses and  
 5 shove the greenery into their mouths. They sometimes hug by  
 6 wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection.  
 7 Elephants also use their trunks to help lift or nudge an baby elephant  
 8 (calf) over an obstacle, to rescue a fellow elephant stuck in mud, or to  
 9 gently raise a newborn elephant to its feet. Last, much like a  
 10 human baby sucks its thumb, an elephant calf often sucks its trunk for  
 11 comfort.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the passage?**

- A "They sometimes hug by wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection."
- B "Last, much like a human baby sucks its thumb, an elephant calf often sucks its trunk for comfort."
- C **"Elephants use their trunks in many useful ways."**
- D "Their trunks can be used as snorkels when an elephant wades in deep water."

**2 Which line in the paragraph explains how an elephant breathes when under water?**

- A Line 1
- B **Line 2**
- C Line 5
- D Line 7



*Go back into the paragraph to see which line tells how elephants breathe when under water.*

**3 According to the paragraph, what do elephants do similar to humans?**

- A Both elephants and humans can use snorkels when under water
- B **For comfort, elephant calves (babies) will suck their trunk much like human babies suck their thumbs**
- C Elephants will use their trunks to eat, much like humans will use their hands to eat



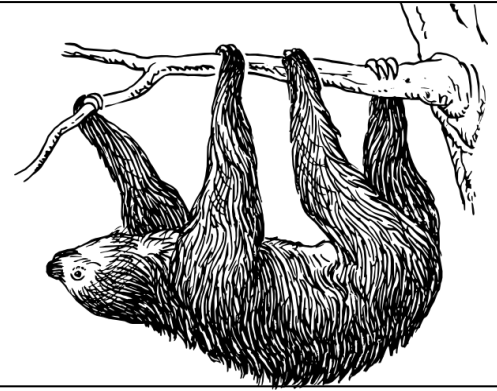
*When you see "according to the paragraph," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It's an easy point!*

**4 How do elephants use their trunks to care for each other? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

Elephants use their trunks to care for each other by lifting or nudging a baby elephant over an obstacle. They also use their trunks to care for each other by rescuing an elephant stuck in the mud or gently raising a newborn elephant to its feet.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Sloths move slowly and use their environment to avoid getting caught by its enemies. By moving slowly, sloths are less noticeable to predators such as hawks and big cats, which rely heavily on their eyesight when hunting. The algae that grows on sloths' fur also helps them avoid predators by letting them blend in with green leaves. If they are caught by a predator, sloths turn from sluggish to slugger, biting fiercely, hissing, slashing with their claws, and shrieking.



**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Sloths allow algae to grow on their fur so that they can blend in with their surroundings.
- B Hawks and big cats rely heavily on their eyesight when hunting.
- C **Sloths move slowly and use algae to blend in with its surroundings to avoid being caught by enemies, and will fight fiercely if caught.**
- D Sloths may seem like peaceful animals, but they will bite, hiss and slash with their claws if they are caught.



*The summary is much like the main idea. It tells you what the paragraph is about and includes key details.*

**2 Sloths will defend themselves if caught by doing all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A hissing and shrieking
- B biting
- C slashing with their claws
- D **kicking**



*"All of the following EXCEPT" = "everything but." Sloths will defend themselves by doing everything but \_\_\_\_\_.*

**3 How do sloths avoid getting caught by its enemies? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.**

Sloths avoid getting caught by its enemies by moving slowly, letting algae grow on their fur to blend in with surrounding leaves. They will also hiss, shriek, bite, and slash with their claws to avoid getting caught.



- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways sloths avoid getting caught.
- Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Killer whales have many hunting techniques. Bumping seals off the ice is just one of them. Known by scientists as the wolves of the sea, killer whales hunt together in cooperative pods, or family groups, much like a pack of wolves. Groups of killer whales cooperate to herd fish into a small, tight area so that they're easier to eat. They will also slap their tails onto the water's surface, causing a wave to wash prey, such as penguins or sea lions, off the ice and into the water. Sometimes a pod of killer whales will surround a larger animal, such as a blue whale. They will chase, bite, and wear down the whale until it becomes a meal.



**1 Which sentence best describes the main idea of the story?**

- A "They will also slap their tails onto the water's surface, causing a wave to wash prey, such as penguins or sea lions, off the ice and into the water."  
 B **"Killer whales have many hunting techniques."**  
 C "Sometimes a pod of killer whales will surround a larger animal, such as a blue whale."  
 D "They will chase, bite, and wear down the whale until it becomes a meal."

 Cross out the answers that you know are wrong. This will make it easier to pick the correct answer.


**2 According to the paragraph, why do killer whales slap their tails onto the water's surface?**

- A to trap fish into a small, tight area so that the pod of killer whales can eat them  
 B to gain speed while chasing larger animals, such as blue whales  
 C **to bump prey, such as sea lions, off the ice and into the water**  
 D to keep its enemies and other dangerous animals away

 When you see "according to the paragraph," go back into the paragraph to find the answer. It's an easy point!

**3 How do killer whales work together to hunt for food? Use two details from the story to support your response.**

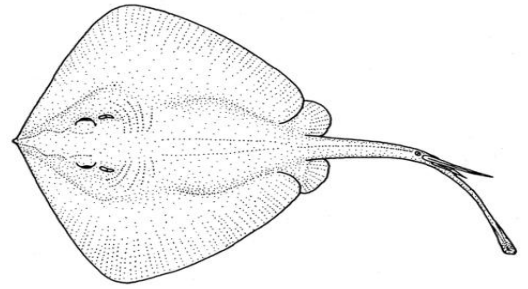
Killer whales work together to hunt for food by herding fish into a tight area so they are easier to eat. They will also surround a larger animal, such as blue whale, and bite/chase it until the whale becomes a meal.

-  • Go back into the paragraph to find two ways killer whales work together to hunt for food.  
 • Always start your answer by repeating the question. It is already done for you above.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### What Do Stingrays Rely on for Self-Defense?

Stingrays have tails that are armed for defense. Some stingrays have a spine in their tail with a very sharp point and edges that are serrated or notched. Many species, including the blue-spotted stingray, have venom (or poison) that is delivered through their tails. That venom, and the sharp spine itself, can be dangerous to humans.



**1** Which is the best summary of this paragraph?

- A Stingrays are dangerous to humans.
- B **Stingrays have sharp and/or poisonous tails for self-defense.**
- C Every stingray has a sharp tail with serrated edges.
- D The white-spotted stingray is a harmless animal.



*The summary is much like the main idea, and includes the most important details.*

**2** Which sentence best states the main idea of this paragraph?

- A "That venom, and the sharp spine itself, can be dangerous to humans."
- B **"Stingrays have tails that are armed for defense."**
- C "Many species, including the blue-spotted stingray, have venom (or poison) that is delivered through their tails."
- D "Some stingrays have a spine in their tail with a very sharp point and edges that are serrated or notched."



*You can often figure out the main idea by looking at the title, the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and the picture.*

**3** How is the stingray's tail dangerous to humans? Use two details from the story to support your response.

The stingray's tail is dangerous to humans because some have a spine in their tail with a sharp point, and edges that are serrated or notched. Some species also have venom that can be delivered through their tails.



- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways that the stingray's tail is dangerous to humans.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "A stingray's tail is dangerous to humans because...."

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

When camping, it is fun to make a camp fire to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows. However, campers should be careful with fires. A fire should be built in a safe place. Some parks have pits in the ground where campers can build a fire. If there isn't a pit, campers can make a circle using rocks and build the fire within the circle. Also, a fire should be watched at all times and should not be left alone until it is completely out. If an uncontrolled fire is seen, it should be reported to a firefighter as soon as possible.




**1** Which is the best summary of this paragraph?

- A **While camp fires are fun, they should be built in a safe place and completely put out when finished.**
- B Camp fires are fun, but cause many forest fires.
- C Camp fires should be built in a safe place.
- D Campers should tell a firefighter if they see an uncontrolled fire.

 The summary includes the main idea and key details. Which answer does this?


**2** Which sentence suggests that camp fires can be dangerous without supervision?

- A "When camping, it is fun to make a camp fire to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows."
- B "If there isn't a pit, campers can make a circle using rocks and build the fire within the circle."
- C "Some parks have pits in the ground where campers can build a fire."
- D **"Also, a fire should be watched at all times and should not be left alone until it is completely out."**

 "Suggests" = "hints." Pick the sentence that hints camp fires can be dangerous if nobody is watching it.

**3** How can a camp fire be built safely? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.

Camp fires can be built safely by building them in a pit if available. If one is not available, camp fires can be built within a circle of rocks.

-  • Go back into the paragraph to find two ways to build a camp fire safely.
- Start your answer by repeating the question "A camp fire can be built safely by ..."



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### What Made The Dinosaurs Disappear?

Dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago. Scientists believe almost all animal life on earth died out due to a large meteor that collided with earth. A meteor is a large space rock. This collision caused massive damage, and kicked-up a giant dust cloud when the meteor hit the ground. This dust cloud blocked the rays and warmth of the sun, causing earth's weather to turn cold and destroying all plant life. As a result, plant-eating dinosaurs and other animals starved to death. Meat-eating dinosaurs that ate these animals and plant-eating dinosaurs were then left with nothing to eat.



1

**Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago.
- B Plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death because all plant-life died when the weather changed.
- C The meteor created a giant dust cloud when it hit the ground.
- D **Dinosaurs disappeared when a meteor hit earth, changing the weather that killed plant life and left dinosaurs without food.**



The summary tells you what the paragraph is about, and includes key details. Which answer does this?

2

**Which detail best explains why plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death?**

- A "Dinosaurs disappeared about 65 million years ago."
- B "As a result, plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death."
- C "Meat-eating dinosaurs that ate plant-eating dinosaurs were then left with nothing to eat."
- D **"This dust cloud blocked the rays and warmth of the sun, causing earth's weather to turn cold and destroying all plant life."**



"Explains" means "shows." Which detail shows why plant-eating dinosaurs starved to death?

3

**Based on information in the text, what caused a giant dust cloud to form?**

- A cold weather
- B **a meteor colliding with the earth**
- C giant dinosaurs kicking up dust
- D the warmth of the sun



When you see "based on information in the text," use the paragraph to help you answer the question. The answer will be right there!

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Christopher Columbus Mistakes America for India

People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived. These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians. This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India. He called the locals Indians and the name stuck.



**1** Which is the best summary of this paragraph ?

- A Christopher Columbus and his men landed in India and named the people that lived there Indians.
- B People that live in India are called American Indians.
- C **When Christopher Columbus landed in the United States (America), he mistakenly thought he was in India and that's why he called the people there Indians.**
- D Christopher Columbus and his men tried to sail to India.

 Main Idea + Key Details = Summary.

**2** Which sentence best explains the reason why Columbus called Native Americans, "Indians"?

- A **"This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India."**
- B "People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived."
- C "He called the locals Indians and the name stuck."
- D "These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians."

 "Explains" means "tells." Pick the sentence that tells why Columbus called Native Americans, "Indians."

**3** Which sentence suggests Christopher Columbus had made a mistake sailing his ships?

- A "People lived in the United States long before Christopher Columbus arrived."
- B "These people are called Native Americans, but sometimes they are referred to as Indians or American Indians."
- C **"This is because when Columbus and his men first landed in America on their ships, he thought he had sailed and landed on the country of India."**
- D "He called the locals Indians and the name stuck."

 "Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows Columbus mistakenly sailed his ships to the wrong place.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

Long ago, Egyptians wore jewelry, makeup, and clothes made of white linen. After all, looking nice was important to the Egyptian people. Most everyone, men and women, wore jewelry of some type. The rich wore jewelry made of gold and silver, while the poor used copper, the same material that pennies are made of. Makeup was important as well, and worn by both men and women. They had cosmetic cases they would carry around. The main type of makeup used was eye paint. Because it was so hot, most people wore white linen clothes mainly to deflect the sun's rays. White linen also looked nice. Men wore kilts, which looks like a skirt, and women wore a straight dress. Slaves and servants would wear fabrics with simple patterns.



**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of the paragraph?

- A "Slaves and servants would wear fabrics with simple patterns."  
 B **"Long ago, Egyptians wore jewelry, makeup, and clothes made of white linen."**  
 C "After all, looking nice was important to the Egyptian people."  
 D "Makeup was important as well, and worn by both men and women."

 What does the paragraph talk mostly about?

**2** According to the paragraph, why did Egyptians mainly wear clothes made of white linen?

- A white kilts and dresses look the best  
 B **to deflect the sun's rays because it was so hot**  
 C white looks nice with any makeup color and any kind of jewelry  
 D white linen always looks nice and clean



The answer is right there in the paragraph when you see "according to the paragraph." It's an easy, free point!

**3** How did the Egyptian people make themselves look nice in the past? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.

Egyptians made themselves look nice by wearing jewelry of some type. Rich wore gold and silver, while the poor wore copper. Egyptians also wore make-up, like eye paint. Last, they wore white linen skirts and straight dresses. Slaves wore fabrics with simple patterns.

-  • Go back into the paragraph to find two ways Egyptian people made themselves look nice.  
 • Start your answer by repeating the question: "Egyptian people made themselves look nice in the past by..."

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Building the Egyptian Pyramids

How were the great Egyptian pyramids built? While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know. It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps. The pyramid would be slowly built, one block at a time. Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid. Because it took so long to build them, young Egyptian kings called Pharaohs, started building their pyramids as soon as they became ruler.



**1** Which sentence best describes the main idea of the paragraph?

- A **“How were the great Egyptian pyramids built?”**
- B “While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know.”
- C “Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid.”
- D “It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps.”



Think about what the paragraph is mostly about. Also, use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and picture for clues.

**2** Which detail best explains how the large blocks were moved up the pyramid?

- A “While some details remain a mystery, scientists think they know.”
- B “The pyramid would be slowly built, one block at a time.”
- C “Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid.”
- D **“It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps.”**



“Explains” means “tells.” Which detail tells how large blocks were moved up the pyramid?

**3** Which details suggest that building a pyramid took a lot of time? Use two details from the paragraph to support your response.

- Scientists estimate it took at least 20,000 workers over 23 years to build a pyramid.
- Because it took so long to build them, young Egyptian kings called Pharaohs, started building their pyramids as soon as they became ruler.
- It is believed that thousands of slaves were used to cut up the large blocks of stone and then slowly move them up the pyramid on ramps. The pyramid would be slowly built, one block at a time.



- Go back into the paragraph to find two details that show pyramids took a long time to build.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: “The details that suggest pyramids took a long time to build are...”

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 4.

### Where is Mario's Baseball Glove?

Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere. He hadn't used the glove since last spring. He looked under his bed. He looked in his closet. He even looked in his brother's bedroom. Finally, he asked his mother if she knew where it was. She said it was right where he had left it— in the basement in his baseball equipment bag.




**1 Which is the best summary of this paragraph?**

- A Mario asks his mom where his baseball glove is.
- B Mario had not played baseball since last spring.
- C Mario loses his glove all the time.
- D **Mario looks all over his house for his glove, and finds it in the basement.**

 Main Idea + Key Details = Summary


**2 Which sentence best supports the paragraph's main idea?**

- A "He hadn't used the glove since last spring."
- B "Mario's mom told him it was in the basement."
- C "The glove was in his baseball equipment bag."
- D **"Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere."**

 You can often figure out the main idea by checking the title, looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and the picture.


**3 Which sentence best supports the idea that Mario had not played baseball in a while?**

- A "Mario looked all over for his baseball glove, but couldn't find it anywhere."
- B "Finally, he asked his mother if she knew where it was."
- C **"He hadn't used the glove since last spring."**
- D "He even looked in his brother's bedroom."

 "Supports the idea" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows that Mario hadn't played baseball in a while.

**4 According to the paragraph, Mario looked in all of the following places for his glove EXCEPT:**

- A **kitchen**
- B basement
- C closet
- D under the bed

 • When you see "according to the paragraph," use the paragraph to help you pick an answer.  
• Pick the place Mario did not look when trying to find his glove.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Ben's Awful Morning

Ben had a terrible morning. Ben had forgotten to set his alarm clock, so he overslept. As a result, he missed the school bus. When he got to school, he could not find his science book in his desk. The only pencil that he had broke, and he got five problems wrong on his homework. He wanted the day to be over with and hoped his day would be better tomorrow.



**1 Which sentence best states the main idea of the story?**

- A "When he got to school, Ben could not find his science book in his desk."
- B "As a result, he missed the school bus."
- C "He had forgotten to set his alarm clock, so he overslept."
- D **"Ben had a terrible morning."**



Think about what the paragraph is mostly about. Use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and picture to help you.

**2 According to the paragraph, what caused Ben to miss the school bus?**

- A Ben had a terrible morning.
- B **He overslept because he forgot to set his alarm clock.**
- C He could not find his science book.
- D His pencil broke while doing his homework the night before.



When you see "according to the paragraph," the answer is right there in the paragraph!

**3 Which sentence suggests Ben had given up for the day?**

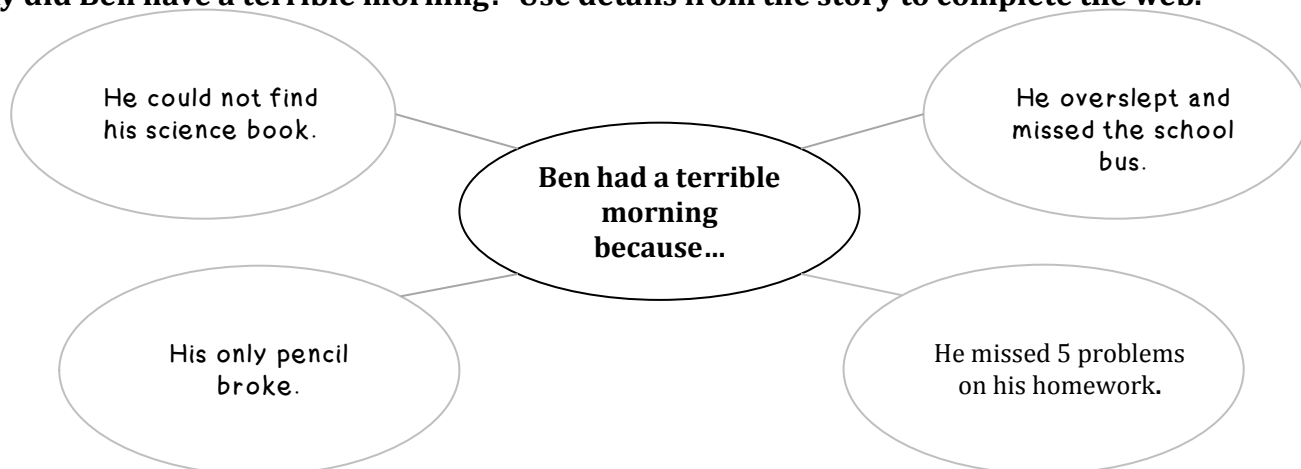
- A "Ben had a terrible morning."
- B **"Ben wanted the day to be over with, and hoped his day would be better tomorrow."**
- C "When he got to school, Ben could not find his science book in his desk."
- D "As a result, he missed the school bus."



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows that Ben had given up for the day.

**BONUS!**

**Why did Ben have a terrible morning? Use details from the story to complete the web.**



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### The Fox and the Grapes

Fox was walking through the woods. He saw some grapes on a vine. "How delicious they look!" he exclaimed. He decided to have some grapes for lunch. The grapes were quite high and it was hard for Fox to reach them, so he jumped. He could not get the grapes—they were too high. Fox tried again and again but the grapes always seemed just out of reach. Finally, Fox gave up. He walked away saying "who wants those sour old grapes anyway."



**1** What is the main lesson of the story?

- A Fox likes to eat fresh fruit.
- B It is easy to dislike what you cannot have.**
- C Hard work pays off in the end.
- D Grapes are usually too high to reach.



Ask yourself "What lesson is the story REALLY trying to teach me?"

**2** Which is the best summary of this story?

- A Fox wants to eat grapes on the vine, but they are too high to reach.**
- B Fox walks through the woods and gets lunch.
- C Fox jumps higher and higher.
- D Fox is not a quitter.



A summary includes all the major parts of the story. Which answer does this?

**3** Which sentence suggests that Fox was upset?

- A "How delicious they look!"
- B "Fox tried again and again but the grapes always seemed just out of reach."
- C "The grapes were quite high and it was hard for Fox to reach them, so he jumped."
- D "He walked away saying 'who wants those sour old grapes anyway.'"**



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows Fox was upset.



**Why do you think Fox said "who wants those sour old grapes anyway"? Do you think the grapes were really sour and old? Why or why not?**

Fox only said that the grapes were sour and old to rationalize why he was giving up, and make himself feel better about not being able to reach the grapes. The grapes were not sour, nor old. Otherwise, he would not have tried to reach for them in the first place.

**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

### Helping Ms. Smith Afterschool

Lisa often had to stay after school and wait until her sister picked her up. While she waited afterschool, she liked to help her teacher, Ms. Smith. Sometimes she washed the chalkboard. Other times she helped grade papers and put them on the bulletin board. Her favorite thing to do was feed the class hamster, Mickey. Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up.



**1** Which sentence best states the main idea of story?

- A "Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up."  
 B **"While she waited afterschool, she liked to help her teacher, Ms. Smith."**  
 C "Sometimes she washed the chalkboard."  
 D "Her favorite thing to do was help feed the class hamster, Mickey."



The main idea is what the paragraph talks mostly about. Use the title, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and picture to help you.

**2** Which detail suggests that Lisa liked animals?

- A **"Her favorite thing to do was feed the class hamster, Mickey."**  
 B "Sometimes she washed the chalkboard."  
 C "Lisa wanted to be a teacher when she grew up."  
 D "Lisa liked to stay after school to help her teacher, Ms. Smith."



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows Lisa liked animals.

**3** How does Lisa show that she is a helpful student? Use two details from the story to support your response.

Lisa shows that she is a helpful student by helping Ms. Smith wash the chalkboard. She also shows she is a helpful student by helping to grade papers and put them on the bulletin board. Last, she shows that she is helpful by feeding the class hamster, Mickey.



- Go back into the paragraph to find two ways Lisa shows that she is helpful.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "Lisa shows that she is helpful by...."



**Directions:** Read the paragraph. Then answer questions 1 through 3.

James was so hungry! He had eaten very little all day. He had been late for school and ate only half a bagel for breakfast. At lunch, he stayed in the classroom to get some extra math help from his teacher, Ms. Nelson and didn't finish his sandwich. After school, James had to do some chores for Ms. Nelson before going home, so he did not have a snack. Now his stomach was grumbling. He hurried to the kitchen to see what was for dinner. It was his favorite—tacos!



**1** Which is the best summary of this story?

- A James has tacos for dinner.
- B **James ate very little for breakfast and lunch, and was starving by dinner time.**
- C James worked with Ms. Nelson both during lunch and afterschool.
- D James had a busy day.



The summary includes the main idea AND the most important facts in the story. Which answer has this?

**2** Which detail suggests the idea that James took his school work seriously?

- A "He had eaten very little all day."
- B "He had been late for school and ate only half a bagel for breakfast."
- C "He had to do some chores for Ms. Nelson before going home, so he did not have a snack."
- D **"He stayed in the classroom to get some extra math help from her teacher, Ms. Nelson and didn't finish his sandwich."**



"Suggests" means "shows." Pick the sentence that shows that James took his school work seriously.

**3** What caused James to eat very little during the day? Use two details from the story to support your response.

James ate very little during the day because he was late for school and didn't have time to finish his bagel in the morning. Also, James ate little during the day because he was getting extra math help during lunch and did not finish his sentence. Last, James helped Ms. Nelson with some chores afterschool and did not have a snack before going home.



- Go back into the paragraph to find two reasons why James ate very little during the day.
- Start your answer by repeating the question: "James ate very little during the day because..."