

Guided Reading

Levels K & L

Comprehension Passages with Text-Based Questions

Name _____

The Mirror

A Traditional Tale - Retold by Anne Gardner



Many years ago, the Pandetti family lived in the mountains. Grandpa Pandetti traveled into the village to trade his goods.

While he was there, he looked for a special gift for his family. After a long search, he found a lovely mirror. No one in his family had ever seen a mirror. Grandpa Pandetti bought the mirror and hurried home to his family.

It was late when Grandpa arrived home. He hung the mirror on the wall and then fell fast asleep.

Early in the morning, little Paul Pandetti awoke. As he walked into the room, he saw a young boy looking back at him. "Papa, someone has broken into our house," Paul cried.

Papa hurried down. He glanced at the mirror and saw a strong man looking back at him. He glared at the man. The man glared back. He pounded his hand on the table and watched as the man pounded his hand on the table.

Mama Pandetti came into the room. She stopped in her tracks when she saw a young woman looking at her. Mama Pandetti smiled and waved at the woman. The woman smiled and waved back at Mama.

Papa watched her with curiosity and then stepped up to the mirror with a smile. The strong man appeared once again in the mirror, but this time he wore a smile upon his face.

From that day forward, the Pandetti family smiled as they walked through the room. They were always greeted by a smile.

and the world will smile along with you.



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Name _____

The Mirror



1. Why did Grandpa Pandetti go to town?
- A. to learn about mirrors
 - B. to trade his goods
 - C. to visit his family
 - D. all of the above

2. What did Grandpa Pandetti do when he got home?
- A. He told his family about the mirror.
 - B. He hung the mirror on the wall.
 - C. He made dinner for himself.
 - D. None of the above.

- The author most likely wrote this story to _____.
- A. teach the reader about mirrors
 - B. teach the reader about life in the mountains
 - C. entertain the reader
 - D. show the reader how to hang a mirror

- How did the Pandettis solve the problem in this story?
- A. They took the mirror off the wall.
 - B. They smiled whenever they looked in the mirror.
 - C. They made friends with their visitors.
 - D. All of the above.

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Guided Reading Passages for Levels K and L



This reading comprehension packet is designed to help kids work toward the goals of reading and comprehending Levels K and L text.

The graphics are offered both in full color and in black and white. The colored version is at the beginning of this file. To access the black and white version, add 50 to the page number for the colored version.

There are two pages of questions with each story. The first page includes four text-based multiple choice questions.

The second page is comprised of short answer and extended answer writing prompts. Depending on the length and complexity of the response, there are either two or three written response questions for each passage.

Prior to having students read each passage, I introduce new vocabulary terms as needed.

These passages are useful for small group instruction, distance learning, choral reading, fluency work, homework and/or literacy centers.

Information about how to access the digital versions of this resource is available on the following page.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Annegardner4@gmail.com. Thanks so much for your purchase!

Sincerely, [Anne Gardner](#)
National Board Certified in Literacy

Please Note: This purchase gives you a license for use with the students in your class. If you have colleagues who would like to use this work, please refer them to [my shop](#).



Digital Links for Levels K/L

1. Reading Passages for Guided Reading Levels K/L (in color), in Google Slides, are available [here](#), or at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Htr-Daa0DzdWoHJWfryEgErzQdzCZf0eu8Knd-5yaLY/copy>

Important: Select the “**Make a Copy**” prompt when first accessing Google files. The copy will be created in the Google Account you are signed into.

To access the digital version of this resource using the new TpT Digital Tool, go to the [resource page](#), and click the TpT Digital Activity button (below the Download Now button).

To access the TpT Digital Activity for resources purchased within a bundle, click the smaller images below the bundle cover to access the individual resources.

If you'd like a quick overview of this new digital tool, click [here](#), or on the following link, to access a [FREE Two Minute Tutorial](#).

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Two-Minute-TpT-Tool-Tutorial-5864191>

In both of these digital options, text boxes have been inserted for students' responses to the multiple choice and written response questions.

If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at Annegardner4@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

Best wishes to you and your students throughout these ever-changing times.

Sincerely, [Anne Gardner](#) (NBCT Literacy)



Reading Comprehension Passages:

Guided Reading Level K/L

Title and Level	
The Mirror (K)	
States of Matter (K)	
The Dog and His Bone (K)	
Reptiles and Birds (K)	
Elephant and Monkey (K)	
Tug of War (K)	
Silly Simon (K)	
Silly Simon's Revenge (L)	
Lions and Tigers (L)	
All About Soil (L)	
Redwood Trees (L)	
The Amazing Elephant Trunk (L)	
All About Helicopters (L)	
All About Hippos (L)	
Rabbit's Great Escape (L)	

Name _____

The Mirror

A Traditional Tale - Retold by Anne Gardner



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While he was there, he looked for a special gift for his family. After a long search, he found a lovely mirror. No one in his family had ever seen a mirror. Grandpa Pandetti bought the mirror and hurried home to his family.

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Early in the morning, little Paul Pandetti awoke. As he walked into the room, he saw a young boy looking back at him. "Papa, someone has broken into our house," Paul cried.

Papa hurried down. He glanced at the mirror and saw a strong man looking back at him. He glared at the man. The man glared back. He pounded his hand on the table and watched as the man pounded his hand on the table.

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Papa watched her with curiosity and then stepped up to the mirror with a smile. The strong man appeared once again in the mirror, but this time he wore a smile upon his face.

From that day forward, the Pandetti family smiled as they walked through the room. They were always greeted by a smile in return.

Moral: Smile and the world will smile along with you.

Name _____



The Mirror

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Name _____

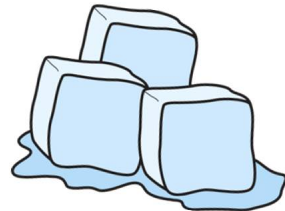
The Mirror



Why did Paul Pandetti think someone had broken into the house?

Do you think the mirror was a good gift for Grandpa to get for the family? Why or why not?

Name _____



States of Matter

Everything we can see and touch is made of matter. Rocks are made of matter. Water and air are matter.

Matter can take different forms.

The water we swim in is in liquid form. Liquids take the shape of whatever container they are in. Water in a round swimming pool takes the shape of the round pool. If it rains too much, water may spill over.

If we change the temperature of water, we can also change its state.

In the winter, we can skate on ice. Ice is water frozen into a solid state. Solids can keep their size and shape, even when they are moved from one location to another. Some solids, like ice, can change into another form of matter when they are heated.

Water can also take the form of a gas. When we boil water to make hot cocoa or tea, the steam that rises from the kettle is a gas. We can see the steam in the air. Be careful not to reach out and touch it. Steam can leave a nasty burn!

A Science Experiment to Try with an Adult:

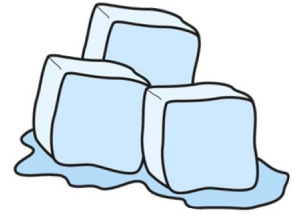
Would you like to see three states of matter?

Start with an ice cube. Ice is a solid. Put the ice cube in a pan for an hour. The ice cube will melt into a liquid form.

Ask an adult to help you boil the water on the stove. Watch as the liquid evaporates, turning into a gas. Steam is a gas. When steam cools, it can turn back into water.

Name _____

States of Matter



1. According to this passage _____.

- A. a liquid takes the shape of its container
- B. a solid takes the shape of its container
- C. water cannot turn into steam
- D. none of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mostly to _____.

- A. teach children about staying safe
- B. help the reader learn about the states of matter
- C. prove that solids are better than liquids
- D. none of the above.

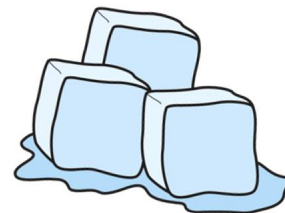
3. What is an example of matter in a liquid form?

- A. ice
- B. steam
- C. water
- D. all of the above

4. Why would someone do the experiment at the bottom of the page?

- A. to melt some snow
- B. to see the 3 states of matter
- C. to make hot cocoa
- D. none of the above

Name _____



States of Matter

What are the three states of matter discussed in this passage?

Use what you know and information from this passage to name at least three examples of matter in a liquid state.

Tom said, "A solid takes the shape of its container." Do you agree with Tom? Explain your answer.

Name _____

The Dog and His Bone

A Traditional Tale retold by Anne Gardner



One day, Dog was walking through the forest on a lovely little path. By the path, he found a big bone with lots of meat on it. He was overjoyed!

Dog picked up the bone and took just a little taste of the juicy meat. Then, he set out to carry the bone home. As he walked, he sang, "This bone is mine, all mine, and it is mighty fine!"

Soon, Dog came to a little bridge. A clear blue stream ran under the bridge.

Dog looked down at the water and stopped in his tracks. In the water, he saw another dog. The dog had a bone, and that bone was bigger than his.

Dog thought for a moment. His bone was fine, but the other bone was bigger and it looked even better. Greed overtook him. Dog opened his mouth to grab the other dog's bone. As he did, his own bone fell into the clear water.

Dog watched as ripples spread across the water. His bone fell through the water and settled at the bottom of the stream.

Instead of going home with the bigger bone, Dog went home with none. That night, Dog slept restlessly as he dreamed of the bone he had found along the forest path.

Moral: It is often best to be happy with what you have.

Name _____

The Dog and His Bone



1. This passage is _____.

- A. a story with a moral
- B. fiction
- C. a traditional tale
- D. all of the above

2. Why did Dog drop his bone?

- A. He did not like the bone.
- B. He wanted to wash it in the stream.
- C. He wanted to get a bigger bone.
- D. None of the above.

3. What happened after Dog dropped his bone?

- A. He came to a little bridge.
- B. He sang a little song.
- C. He slept restlessly.
- D. None of the above.

4. *The Dog and His Bone* is mostly about _____.

- A. what dogs like to eat
- B. a greedy dog
- C. a path in the forest
- D. a bridge over a stream

Name _____

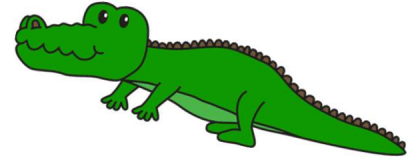
The Dog and His Bone



What did Dog think he saw when he looked down from the bridge?

What did Dog *really* see when he looked down from the bridge?

Each person who tells a traditional tale can put his or her own spin on the story. If you were telling *The Dog and His Bone*, how would you change the story? Why?



Birds and Reptiles

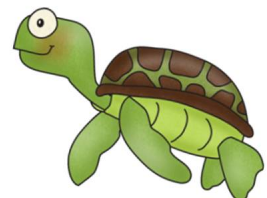
Birds and reptiles are similar in many ways. They are both vertebrates, meaning they have a backbone. Both birds and reptiles lay eggs that have a protective shell. The shell keeps the eggs from drying out. Both birds and reptiles have lungs and breathe air.

Reptiles and birds are also different in some important ways. Birds are warm-blooded. They are able to regulate the temperature of their bodies. Birds do not have teeth. They grind their food in their gizzard.

Birds have feathers that help keep them warm. All birds have wings, but not all birds fly. Penguins, for instance, use their wings as flippers to help them swim. Ostriches use their wings to help them balance as they run at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour.

Reptiles are cold-blooded. They can't regulate their own body heat, so they rely on warmth from the sun. Turtles, crocodiles, snakes and lizards are reptiles. Reptiles are covered with scales and all reptiles have teeth.

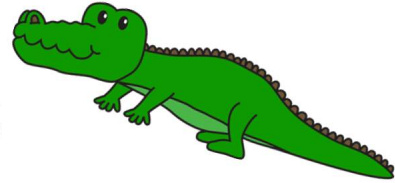
Some people believe that birds may have evolved from reptiles. That may be one reason that birds and reptiles are so similar.



Name _____



Birds and Reptiles



1. How are reptiles and birds similar?

- A. Reptiles and birds are both vertebrates.
- B. Reptiles and birds both have wings.
- C. Reptiles and birds both have teeth.
- D. All of the above.

2. Which statement is an opinion?

- A. Birds are more interesting than reptiles.
- B. Reptiles are cold-blooded.
- C. Birds are warm-blooded.
- D. Reptiles and birds both lay eggs.

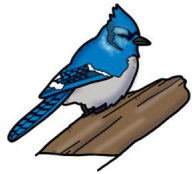
3. Which statement is true?

- A. All birds have wings.
- B. All birds can fly.
- C. All reptiles have gills so they can breathe underwater.
- D. None of the above.

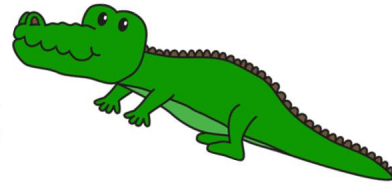
4. What's one way in which birds and reptiles are different?

- A. Birds have scales and reptiles don't.
- B. Birds and reptiles both lay eggs.
- C. Reptiles have teeth and birds don't.
- D. None of the above.

Name _____



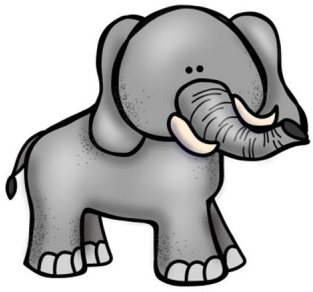
Birds and Reptiles



List two ways in which birds and reptiles are similar.

List two ways in which birds and reptiles are different.

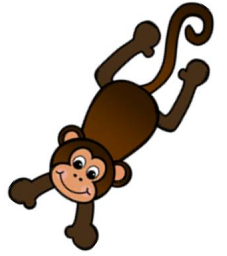
Rate this passage on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 meaning you found this passage very interesting and 1 meaning you did not find this passage interesting at all. Justify your rating.



Name _____

Elephant and Monkey

A Tale from India - Retold by Anne Gardner



Long ago and far away, a wise old owl heard Monkey and Elephant arguing. Elephant boasted, "I am so strong that I can push down a tree with my trunk!"

Monkey bragged, "I can run and climb like no other animal!" As the owl flew by, Monkey asked, "Is it better to be strong like an elephant or to be agile like a monkey?"

The wise owl said, "Whooo is ready for a task that will help you solve your problem? There is a fruit tree across the river. Go, pick the ripest fruit, and bring it to me."

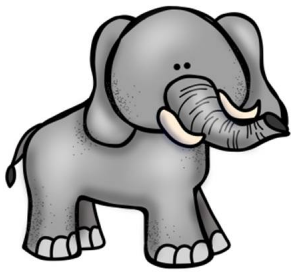
Elephant and Monkey went straight to the river. The water ran quickly, and Monkey was afraid to cross. "Get on my back," said Elephant. "I am big and strong. I can walk across the river." Reluctantly, Monkey climbed onto Elephant's back. Across the river they went.

They found that the trunk of the tree was wide and strong. The fruit hung high above them. Elephant tried to break the tree down, but he could not budge it. He tried to reach the fruit with his trunk, but it was much too high.

"I can climb," exclaimed Monkey. He scampered up the tree and threw the ripest, juiciest fruit down to Elephant. Elephant grasped the fruit with his trunk. Monkey climbed on Elephant's back, and they proceeded to cross the river and bring the fruit to the owl.

The wise old owl gratefully accepted the fruit and asked, "Whooo learned a lesson today?"

Monkey and Elephant looked at one another, smiled and said, "Together, we can do great things!"

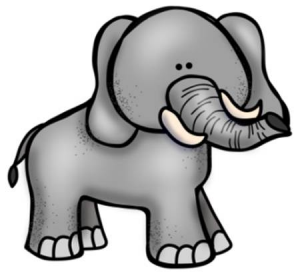


Name _____

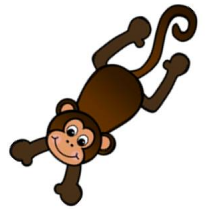
Elephant and Monkey



1. Why didn't Monkey get the fruit by himself?
 - A. Monkey didn't like fruit.
 - B. The fruit was too high up in the tree.
 - C. Monkey was scared to cross the river.
 - D. Elephant had already eaten it up.
2. How did the wise old owl help Elephant and Monkey?
 - A. He told them where to find fruit.
 - B. He proved that being strong was more important.
 - C. He proved that being agile was more important.
 - D. He helped them learn to work together.
3. How did Monkey feel about climbing on Elephant's back to cross the river the first time?
 - A. He was angry because he did not like the river.
 - B. He was tired, so he was happy to get a ride.
 - C. He really didn't want to, but he did anyway.
 - D. He was happy to ride on Elephant's back.
4. What lesson could be learned from this story?
 - A. It is hard to find food in the jungle.
 - B. Only large animals should cross rivers.
 - C. It is best to work together.
 - D. It is important to be the strongest.



Name _____

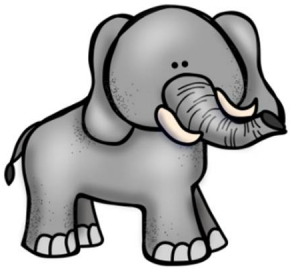


Elephant and Monkey

How did Elephant help Monkey in this story?

How did Monkey help Elephant in this story?

What lesson could be learned from this story?



Name _____



Tug of War

Traditional African Tale - Retold by Anne Gardner

Tortoise crawled slowly along a trail. Hippo had just chased him out of the river, and he was angry. Just then, Elephant came along and nearly stepped on him.

“Watch where you are stepping, you big brute,” called Tortoise.

Elephant harshly replied, “You step off my trail, Tortoise, or your day will go from bad to worse.”

“You don’t scare me,” Tortoise replied. “I am much stronger than you know. I am easily as strong as you.” Elephant laughed at Tortoise’s reply.

“I challenge you to a contest of tug of war!” Tortoise called. Elephant chuckled as he accepted. Tortoise called, “Hold on to one end of this vine. I’ll walk to the river with the other end. When I call, ‘Pull with all your might,’ the contest shall begin.”

Elephant held the vine in his trunk as Tortoise plodded back to the river, where he found Hippo. Tortoise challenged Hippo to the very same contest. Hippo held tight to the other end of the vine as Tortoise walked up the trail.

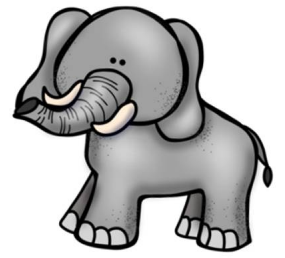
Tortoise hid in the bushes and called, “Pull with all your might!” Hippo and Elephant each pulled and tugged, but neither of them could gain any ground.

After a long battle, Tortoise suggested, “Let’s call it a tie before the vine breaks.” Both Elephant and Hippo were happy to have a chance to catch their breath.

Tortoise ambled on and neither Elephant nor Hippo ever bothered him again.



Name _____



Tug of War

1. What happened after Tortoise challenged Elephant to a contest of tug of war?
 - A. Hippo chased Tortoise out of the river.
 - B. Tortoise challenged Hippo to the very same contest.
 - C. Elephant almost stepped on Tortoise.
 - D. All of the above.

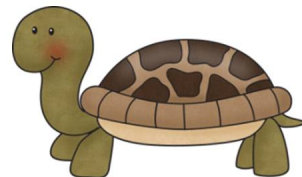
2. What happened before Tortoise suggested they call the contest a tie?
 - A. Elephant held one end of the vine.
 - B. Hippo and Elephant tugged and pulled on the vine.
 - C. Tortoise plodded to the river.
 - D. All of the above.

3. The author most likely wrote this story to _____.
 - A. teach the reader about animals
 - B. teach the reader all about tug of war
 - C. entertain the reader
 - D. none of the above

4. This passage is _____.
 - A. an informational passage
 - B. a nonfiction passage
 - C. a tale from Africa
 - D. all of the above



Name _____



Tug of War

In your opinion, which animal in this story was smartest?
Justify your answer.

If you decided to create your own version of this folktale,
what would you change? Why?

Do you think the author wants the reader to think it is more
important to be strong or to be smart? How do you know?

Name _____

Silly Simon

A Traditional Tale from Holland - Retold by Anne Gardner



A poor boy named Simon lived in Holland many years ago. One day, Simon's mother told him to take their only cow to town and sell her for no less than fifty silver coins.

About a mile down the road, Simon passed three rascals. "Let's trick Simon out of his cow," said the first rascal. They put their heads together and quickly came up with a plan. The three rascals raced ahead and stood about a half a mile apart along the road.

As Simon passed the first rascal, the man said, "What a nice old horse you have!" Simon shook his head and kept on walking until he came to the second rascal.

"Good day," said the second rascal. "Why aren't you riding your horse?"

Simon replied, "Are you blind? This is a cow. I am taking her to market as my mama asked me to."

As Simon neared the village, the third rascal approached him and asked, "Good man, is your horse for sale?"

"That does it," said Simon to himself. "It must be a horse after all."

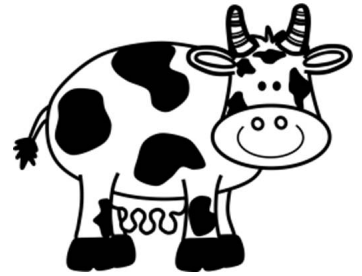
"I will give you twenty silver coins for the horse," said the third rascal. Simon knew that twenty silver coins was a good price for an old horse.

"It's a deal," said Simon. Simon walked home, quite pleased with himself. When Simon arrived home, he gave his mama the twenty silver coins and told her the story of how he had sold their horse.

Mama quietly replied, "What comes around, goes around. We shall pay those rascals a visit tomorrow."

Name _____

Silly Simon



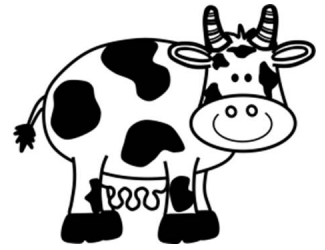
1. What happened as Simon was taking the cow to town?
 - A. He talked to the rascals along the way.
 - B. He walked at least a mile.
 - C. He sold the cow along the way.
 - D. All of the above.

2. What do we know about Simon?
 - A. His family was rich.
 - B. He had a goat.
 - C. He was very clever.
 - D. None of the above.

3. What did Mama want Simon to come home with?
 - A. twenty silver coins
 - B. a horse
 - C. at least fifty silver coins
 - D. none of the above

4. Why did Simon sell the animal for twenty silver coins?
 - A. His Mama asked him to.
 - B. He was too tired to walk all the way to the market.
 - C. The rascals convinced him it was a horse.
 - D. All of the above.

Name _____



Silly Simon

What was the rascals' plan? How do you know?

What lesson could Simon learn from this story?

Name _____

Silly Simon's Revenge

A Traditional Tale from Holland - Retold by Anne Gardner



Long ago, three rascals tricked Simon out of his family's only cow. The very next day, Simon and his Mama set out to teach those rascals a lesson. In the morning, Mama walked to town to set the stage. Then she returned home, gave Simon a tarnished old ring, and told him exactly what to do.

Simon set out for town that afternoon. He arrived at an inn where the three rascals were planning their next heist. Simon joined them and offered to buy their drinks. When it came time to pay the bill, Simon held up his hand and slowly twisted the ring on his finger three times. Then he asked the innkeeper, "How much do I owe?"

"Nothing," said the innkeeper. "It's taken care of."

The three rascals looked at one another, but said nothing. They walked with Simon to the next inn, where Simon offered to treat them to a fine dinner. After dinner, Simon held up his hand and slowly twisted the ring three times. The innkeeper came to the table, thanked them for coming and announced that the bill was covered.

The rascals asked Simon where the ring had come from. Simon replied, "Mama found it buried in the sand. She said it is worth a fortune."

"We'll give you one hundred silver coins for it!" said the first rascal.

"It's a deal," Simon replied. He took the coins straight home.

Mama was pleased. "Now we have one hundred silver coins," she said. "Fifty coins will pay for the cow. Twenty coins will cover the food and drink and the final thirty coins will teach those rascals a lesson." The three rascals never bothered Simon again.

Name _____



Silly Simon's Revenge



1. Why did Mama want to teach the rascals a lesson?
 - A. The rascals did not pay for their dinner.
 - B. The rascals tricked Simon out of his family's cow.
 - C. The rascals took Simon's horse.
 - D. None of the above.
2. Why did Mama most likely go to town?
 - A. to find the rascals
 - B. to give the innkeepers money for the food and drinks
 - C. to find the cow Simon sold and get it back
 - D. none of the above
3. What happened before the rascals bought the ring?
 - A. The rascals tricked Simon out of his family's cow.
 - B. Simon held up his hand and slowly twisted the ring.
 - C. Simon offered to treat the rascals to dinner.
 - D. All of the above.
4. The author most likely wrote this story to _____.
 - A. teach the reader about Holland
 - B. teach the reader about magic rings
 - C. entertain the reader
 - D. none of the above

Name _____



Silly Simon's Revenge



Who do you think Mama talked to when she went to town? What do you think she might have said?

Was the old ring really magic? How do you know?

Do you think Mama and Simon should have tricked the rascals? Why or why not?

Name _____



Lions and Tigers



Lions and tigers both belong to the cat family. They are similar in many ways. Both lions and tigers are mammals. They give birth to live young called cubs. The cubs are blind and helpless when they are born. A cub must drink its mother's milk until it is ready to eat solid food.

Both lions and tigers need to eat meat to survive. Most lions live in a group called a pride. The females, called lionesses, hunt together. Tigers most often live on their own, except for when a mother tiger is raising cubs.

Like all cats, both lions and tigers can see well in the dark. This may be one of the reasons they often hunt at night. Lions and tigers both have big paws with long, sharp claws and a fearsome roar!

Most lions live in Africa. Their fur is the color of dry grass. This makes them difficult to see on the grassy plains where they live. Lion cubs are born with spots that fade away as they grow.

Most tigers live in Asia. Tigers have stripes that help them blend into the forests and jungles where they live. On a hot day, a tiger will cool off in a jungle pool or look for a shady spot where it can sleep.

Both lions and tigers are apex predators. This means that they are each at the top of their food chain. In the wild, they hunt for other animals but have no natural predators.

Name _____



Lions and Tigers



1. According to this passage _____.

- A. all lions are tigers and all tigers are lions
- B. all mammals are lions and tigers
- C. lions and tigers are members of the cat family
- D. all of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mostly to _____.

- A. teach the reader about lions and tigers
- B. help the reader stay safe while watching big cats
- C. explain why tigers are better than lions
- D. explain why lions are better than tigers

3. How are lions and tigers alike?

- A. Both lions and tigers live in Africa.
- B. Both lions and tigers are mammals.
- C. Both lions and tigers cool off in jungle pools.
- D. All of the above.

4. According to this passage, tiger and lion cubs _____.

- A. are mammals
- B. drink their mother's milk
- C. are blind when they are born
- D. all of the above

Name _____



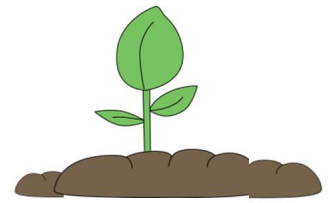
Lions and Tigers

If the author asked you to choose one word from this passage to present in bold print, which word would you choose? Why?

What is one way in which lions and tigers are different?

Joe said, "Lions are better than tigers." Do you agree with him? Is Joe's statement a fact or an opinion?

Name _____



All About Soil

Soil is an important natural resource. Most plants need soil to live. Farmers grow crops in soil. The grass we walk on grows in soil. Most plants have roots that reach down into the soil. The roots spread out. Soil helps the plants stand up.

Plants get some of their food and water from the soil. Their roots collect nutrients and water that help the plants grow.

Animals, including people, need soil to live too. Some animals eat plants. Other animals eat the animals that eat plants. Without soil, most plants could not grow. Without plants, many animals would have nothing to eat. Animals need soil.

Not all soils are the same. Sandy soil is very dry. It does not hold water very well. Most plants do not grow well in sandy soil.

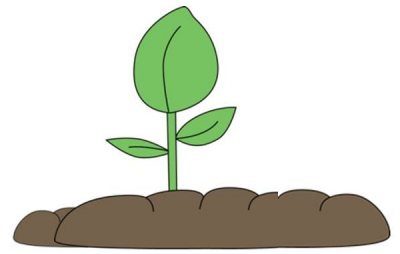
Rich, moist soil that has humus in it is good for growing most plants. Humus has a lot of food, or nutrients, in it. Soil that has a lot of humus is often wet and crumbly. Farmers and gardeners usually prefer this kind of soil, which some gardeners refer to as “black gold.”

Earthworms dig through soil. As they do, they loosen the soil. That makes the soil good for growing things.

We need soil so we can have grass to walk on, trees to climb, and healthy food to eat.

Humus: Rich, dark material that forms in soil when plant and animal matter decays.

Name _____



All About Soil

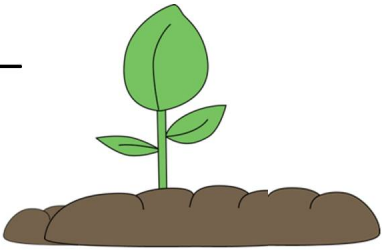
1. According to this passage _____.
 - A. people need soil
 - B. some people call rich soil “black gold”
 - C. plants can get some nutrients from soil
 - D. all of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mostly to _____.
 - A. teach the reader about growing a garden
 - B. help the reader learn why worms are important
 - C. explain why soil is important
 - D. none of the above

3. The author implies that humus _____.
 - A. is disgusting because it is made from decaying plants
 - B. makes soil dry
 - C. should not be allowed in soil used to grow food
 - D. none of the above

4. Why do gardeners refer to some soil as black gold?
 - A. It has little chunks of gold in it.
 - B. It is sandy and dry.
 - C. It is good for growing plants.
 - D. All of the above.

Name _____



All About Soil

Randy stated, “Before you plant a garden, it is important to get all the worms out of the soil.”

Do you agree with Randy? Why or why not?

The author states that soil is an important natural resource. Why is soil important? Provide at least 3 details from the passage to support your answer.

Name _____

Redwood Trees

Redwood trees are sometimes called “nature’s skyscrapers” because they are the tallest trees in the world. Many redwoods are over 300 feet tall. Scientists have even found some redwood trees that are over 350 feet tall. That’s taller than the Statue of Liberty!



The largest redwood trees grow within 50 miles of the Pacific Ocean. Many of these giant trees can be found along the coasts of California and Oregon. The climate along the coast is foggy and rainy. This gives the redwoods a steady supply of water.

The bark of a redwood tree can be up to one foot thick. This thick bark helps protect the tree from insects, disease, and even fire. The bark and wood of a redwood tree contain tannin, which repels insects. Termites and carpenter ants that damage many other trees will not burrow into redwood trees because of the tannin.

Redwood trees have shallow roots that can reach out 100 feet from the base of the tree. These roots intertwine with the roots of other redwood trees, helping to keep the trees stable during floods and strong winds. In this way, redwoods truly help support each other!

Redwood trees are the largest living thing on earth. It is difficult to imagine how big redwood trees can be. Want to get a better understanding of the size of these trees? Cut a piece of string about 95 feet long. Tie the ends of the string together and spread the string out into a circle. The circle will be about as big around as the base of one of the larger redwood trees.

That’s a **very** big tree!

Name _____



Redwood Trees

1. Redwood trees are _____.
- A. trees that have thick bark
 - B. trees that have shallow roots
 - C. sometimes called “nature’s skyscrapers”
 - D. all of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mainly to _____.
- A. teach the reader about California
 - B. help the reader learn about termites
 - C. help the reader learn about redwood trees
 - D. teach the reader about the roots of trees

3. Which statement is true?
- A. All redwood trees are taller than the Statue of Liberty.
 - B. Redwood trees have deep roots.
 - C. Most redwood trees grow near the Atlantic Ocean.
 - D. None of the above.

4. Why don’t termites burrow into redwood trees?
- A. Redwood trees are too big for termites to eat.
 - B. Redwood trees have shallow roots.
 - C. The bark and wood of a redwood contain tannin.
 - D. None of the above.

Name _____

Redwood Trees



Jane read this article and then stated, “All redwood trees are taller than the Statue of Liberty.”

Do you agree with Jane? Why or why not?

What could a person learn about redwood trees from this passage? Include at least 3 details from the story.

The Amazing Elephant Trunk



People have long been fascinated by elephants. There could be many reasons for this.

The African elephant is the world's largest land animal, growing up to 11 feet tall and weighing as much as 14,000 pounds. These huge animals can survive by eating grass, bark, leaves and berries.

An elephant's tusks never stop growing. But, it is primarily the elephant's trunk that makes this animal so interesting.

An elephant's strong, flexible trunk can do many things. Elephants can use their trunks, which can be up to five feet long, to pick up small pieces of fruit or lift large tree branches. With their trunks, they can reach high up into trees to gather the tastiest leaves.

Elephants drink large amounts of water each day. An elephant's trunk can hold over a gallon of water. Elephants can use their trunks like straws. First, the elephant will suck water into its trunk. Then, it pokes the end of its trunk into its mouth to give itself a nice refreshing drink.

Sometimes, elephants will use their trunks like showers. They can fill their trunk up with water and spray themselves.

Elephants use their trunks to smell and to breathe. They also reach out to greet one another with their trunks. A baby elephant will sometimes use its trunk to hold on to its mother's tail so it doesn't get lost as they walk to find a new feeding area.

As it swims, an elephant can hold its trunk above the water to breathe. It looks like the elephant is using a snorkel!

Name _____



The Amazing Elephant Trunk

1. According to this passage, an elephant can use its trunk to _____.

- A. pick up small pieces of fruit
- B. lift heavy branches
- C. greet another elephant
- D. all of the above

2. Why does a baby elephant hold on to its mother's tail?

- A. to play tag
- B. so it doesn't get lost
- C. to use it as a snorkel
- D. all of the above

3. Which of these statements is an opinion?

- A. Elephants use their trunks to smell and to breathe.
- B. An African elephant can weigh as much as 14,000 pounds.
- C. Elephants are the most amazing animals on earth.
- D. All of the above.

4. The author wrote this passage mainly to _____.

- A. teach the reader how much elephants can weigh
- B. help the reader learn about elephant trunks
- C. prove that elephants are more interesting than hippos
- D. none of the above

Name _____



The Amazing Elephant Trunk

Write two facts about an elephant's trunk.

Write an opinion about an elephant's trunk.

What did you find most surprising or interesting as you read this passage?

Name _____



All About Helicopters

A helicopter is a type of aircraft that uses rotors to fly. Rotors allow helicopters to do things that airplanes cannot do. Unlike an airplane, a helicopter can hover in one spot and can fly both forwards and backwards.

Helicopters can take off without a runway and can land where there is not enough room for an airplane to land. This allows them to get to many hard to access areas.

Some small helicopters are designed to carry just one person. Larger helicopters can carry many people and can lift and transport heavy objects. The military uses helicopters to move troops and to get supplies to remote areas.

Firefighters sometimes use helicopters to help fight wildfires. A big bucket, called a helibucket, can hang under the helicopter and drop water directly on the fire.

Police also use helicopters. Police helicopters have special equipment such as strong lights that can shine down on the ground. This can be very helpful for search and rescue missions.

Helicopters are useful for medical transport. They can be used as flying ambulances to bring sick or injured people from one place to another quickly.

Most helicopters are quite noisy. Because of the sound they make, they are sometimes called choppers.

Name _____



All About Helicopters

1. This passage is _____.

- A. a news article
- B. an informational passage
- C. a folktale
- D. all of the above

2. What do rotors allow helicopters to do?

- A. hover in one place
- B. fly backwards
- C. fly forwards
- D. all of the above

3. According to this passage, helicopters are used by

- A. firefighters and construction workers.
- B. schools and newspaper reporters.
- C. firefighters and police.
- D. all of the above.

4. The author most likely believes that _____.

- A. airplanes are much better than helicopters
- B. helicopters can be useful
- C. riding in a helicopter is quiet and peaceful
- D. all of the above

Name _____



All About Helicopters

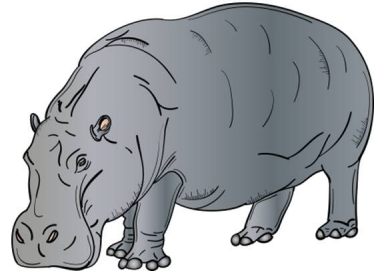
Why do people sometimes call helicopters choppers?

How are helicopters used? Give at least 2 examples from the passage.

Think of a time when a helicopter would be more useful than an airplane. Explain why a helicopter would be better in this situation.

Name _____

All About Hippos



A hippopotamus is a very large, heavy animal. A hippo can be up to 12 feet long and can weigh 2 – 3 tons.

Hippos have thick barrel-shaped bodies. Even their skin is thick. Hippos' legs look short compared to their huge bodies. Hippos have small eyes and ears on their big heads.

Hippos are mammals, and all mammals have hair. It can be difficult to see a hippo's hair, as they have just a few hairs on their ears, their nose, and the tip of their tail.

Like other mammals, hippos give birth to live young. Baby hippos usually weigh between 50 and 100 pounds when they are born. They are most often born underwater. As soon as a baby hippo is born, it must swim to the surface to breathe.

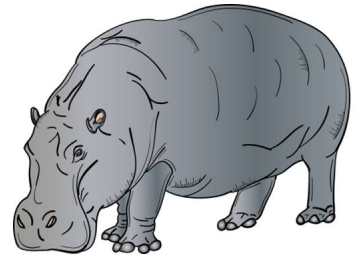
In the water, baby hippos can often be seen riding on their mothers' backs. This helps them stay safe from crocodiles.

Hippos live in herds and tend to stay close together. They live by streams and rivers in many parts of Africa. During the day, they like to sleep and rest in the water.

At night, hippos often leave the water to feed on grass. When food is plentiful, a hippo will spend about 6 hours a day eating grass. Hippos often pull the grass right up out of the ground. When the ground is bare, the herd moves on to look for another feeding place.

During a drought, streams and feeding places can dry up. When this happens, hippos sometimes coat themselves in mud to keep the hot sun off their skin, lie down, and wait for the rain to come.

Name _____



All About Hippos

1. The author's purpose in writing this passage was to _____.
A. warn people to stay away from hippos
B. help the reader learn about hippos
C. compare hippos to elephants
D. all of the above

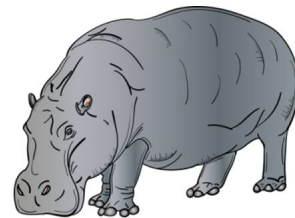
2. According to this passage, a hippo _____.
A. is a mammal
B. usually weighs 50 to 100 pounds when it is born
C. often pulls grass out of the ground as it eats
D. all of the above

3. Hippos are very big! They have huge _____.
A. eyes
B. bodies
C. ears
D. all of the above

4. Why does a baby hippo ride on its mother's back?
A. to keep the sun off her skin
B. to feed on grass
C. to stay safe from crocodiles
D. none of the above

Name _____

All About Hippos

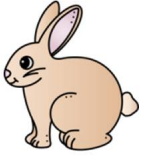


What could a person learn about baby hippos from this passage? Use at least 2 details from the passage.

What can hippos do during a drought?

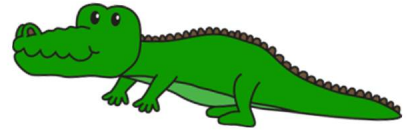
Jill said, "Hippos do not have hair so they are not mammals."
Would the author of this passage agree with Jill?

Name _____



Rabbit's Great Escape

A traditional tale - Retold by Anne Gardner



Rabbit was stranded on an island not far from the mainland. Looking across the water, she was able to see her cousins hopping, playing and eating fresh green grass. She was the only rabbit on the island, and she was very lonely.

One day, Rabbit looked out and saw the tip of an alligator's tail. He lurked in the water, swimming back and forth in front of her. As Rabbit watched, she came up with an idea. Rabbit called out, "Alligator, Alligator, what a lovely day for a swim!"

"Who dares call my name?" grumbled Alligator, as he popped his head above the water.

"It's me! I'm over here," responded Rabbit. "You live in the ocean and I enjoy my home on this island. Do you think there are more alligators in the sea or more rabbits on land?"

"Of course, there are more alligators," Alligator answered.

"I have seen far more rabbits than alligators," Rabbit teased. "But then, you alligators are always hiding under the water."

"If I were to call all my brothers and sisters, you would see," replied Alligator.

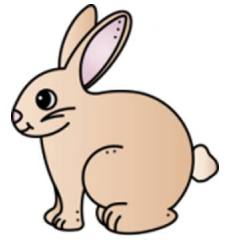
Rabbit responded, "There could never be enough alligators to reach from this island to the mainland."

"See for yourself," said Alligator. He called to all his relatives, who joined him by the island. "It will be simple for us to make a line stretching from here to the mainland."

"Oh, it's wonderful," responded Rabbit. "Would you splendid creatures let me count you? Don't move!" Rabbit counted out loud as she hopped from one alligator to another.

When she reached the mainland, Rabbit called out, "Thank you so much for helping me build a bridge from the island." Then Rabbit hopped away, just as fast as she could.

Name _____



Rabbit's Great Escape

1. Why did Rabbit want to talk to Alligator?

- A. Alligator was Rabbit's friend.
- B. Rabbit was planning to trick Alligator.
- C. Rabbit wanted to learn to swim.
- D. All of the above.

2. What happened before Rabbit counted the alligators?

- A. Alligator called his brothers and sisters.
- B. Rabbit was stranded on an island.
- C. Rabbit could see her cousins eating green grass.
- D. All of the above.

3. This passage is _____.

- A. an informational article
- B. a traditional tale
- C. a news story
- D. none of the above

4. This passage is mostly about _____.

- A. life on an island
- B. how Rabbit tricked Alligator
- C. a friendly alligator
- D. counting alligators

Name _____



Rabbit's Great Escape

Rabbit told Alligator that she liked her home on the island. Do you think she really liked her island home? How do you know?

Do you think Rabbit's plan was a good one? Why or why not? Use details from the story to justify your answer.

Why did Rabbit hop away as fast as she could when she reached the mainland?

Answer Key for Reading Comprehension Passages Levels K/L

The Mirror

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. B

States of Matter

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. B

The Dog & His Bone

1. D
2. C
3. C
4. B

Reptiles & Birds

1. A
2. A
3. A
4. C

Elephant & Monkey

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. C

Tug of War

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. C

Silly Simon

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. C

Silly Simon's Revenge

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. C

Lions & Tigers

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D

All About Soil

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. C

Redwood Trees

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. C

The Amazing Elephant Trunk

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. B

All About Helicopters

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. B

All About Hippos

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. C

Rabbit's Great Escape

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. B

Also Available from **Anne Gardner**:

GUIDED READING Levels G and H

The Colors of the Sky

Some questions seem simple until you stop and think about them. One of these questions is, "What color is the sky?"

At times, the sky looks blue. Puffy white clouds can turn in the sky, making the sky blue and white. Before it rains, the clouds can get dark and heavy. The sky can look gray.

As the sun shines after it rains, a rainbow can form.

Each evening, the sun sets. As the sun sets, it can make the sky look orange, pink, or even purple.

At night, the sky looks black except for the stars and the moon.

"What color is the sky?" It seems like a simple question, until you stop and think about it. Can you think of another question that seems simple until you stop and think about it?

GUIDED READING Levels I and J

Goldfish

Many people like to keep goldfish for pets because they can be fun to watch. A goldfish has one big fin on its back and little fins underneath. It uses its fins and tail to help it swim.

Goldfish need a tank with very clean water. Some people put water snails and water weeds in the tank to keep the water clean.

Goldfish eat fish food. Each goldfish needs just a little bit of food each day. It is important not to feed too much to goldfish. They will eat some of it, but it is not good for them. Feeding too much makes the water in the fish tank dirty.

Goldfish breathe air by breathing through their gills. If you see a fish opening and shutting its mouth, it is probably moving water into its mouth and out of its gills. A fish tank can have a pump and air filter in the water. You should keep bubbling air in the water.

Baby goldfish hatch from eggs. All goldfish are born when they hatch. As they grow bigger, they will turn gold, red, or orange. A few goldfish can even be black.

Guided Reading Levels M & N

Comprehension Passages with Text-Based Questions

Children's Rights

Do you know what children's rights are? They are the rights that children have to be treated fairly and to be safe. These rights are called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The United Nations is an organization that helps children around the world. It has 193 member countries. The United Nations has a goal to make sure that every child has the rights that they need to live a good life.

Some of the rights that children have are:

- The right to be born and to live.
- The right to have a name and a nationality.
- The right to be brought up in a family or a family-like environment.
- The right to be educated.
- The right to be healthy and to have access to health care.
- The right to be safe and to be protected from harm.
- The right to be heard and to have their views taken into account.

Career-Focused Reading Passages

With Text-Based Questions



Upper Elementary Reading Level

Adding -ed and -ing endings

Featuring:

Roll, Read & Write Games

Roll, Read & Write Game

Directions: For each word, roll a die. Add an ending using the directions below.

Roll	Word	Roll	Word	Roll	Word
1	zip	2	try	3	trade
4	pop	5	skate	6	hop
7	jog	8	peek	9	pump
10	grab	11	shoot	12	chase
13	walk	14	dash	15	help

READING LEVEL ASSESSMENTS

For Guided Reading Levels A-T

All About Helicopters

A helicopter does not have wings. It uses rotors to fly. These rotors allow helicopters to do things that airplanes cannot do.

Unlike an airplane, a helicopter can hover in one spot and can fly both forwards and backwards.

A helicopter can take off without a runway and it can land where there is not enough room for an airplane to land. This makes it a very useful machine for many jobs.

Some small helicopters are designed to carry just one person. Larger helicopters can carry many people and can transport heavy objects. The military uses helicopters to move troops and to get supplies to remote areas.

Police use helicopters with special equipment such as night vision goggles to help them see at night. They are very helpful for search and rescue missions.

Firefighters sometimes use helicopters to help fight wildfires. A big bucket, called a helicopter bucket, can hang under the helicopter and drop water directly onto the fire.

Helicopters are used in many other ways. They can be used to deliver medicine to people in remote areas or to bring injured people from one place to another quickly.

Most helicopters are quite noisy. Because of the sound they make, they are sometimes called choppers.

PLACE VALUE CHARTS

Place Value Chart

Tens	Ones
4	7

Place Value Chart

Hundreds	Tens	Ones
1	3	6

Place Value Chart

Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
1	1	2	6

For Bulletin Boards & Individual Use

GUIDED READING LEVELS A - T

"Students' fluency and comprehension have skyrocketed..."

Guided Reading Levels A - T

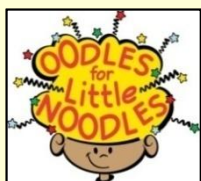
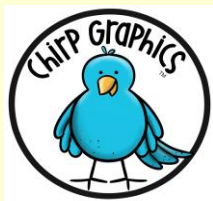
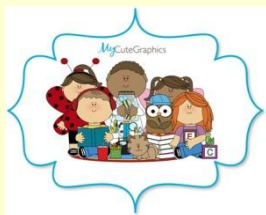
Includes: Fables, Career-Focused Reading Passages, Guided Reading Levels G & H, Guided Reading Levels I & J, Guided Reading Levels K & L, Guided Reading Levels M & N, Guided Reading Levels O & P, Guided Reading Levels Q & R, Guided Reading Levels S & T, Career-Focused Reading Passages, Guided Reading Levels G & H, Guided Reading Levels I & J, Guided Reading Levels K & L, Guided Reading Levels M & N, Guided Reading Levels O & P, Guided Reading Levels Q & R, Guided Reading Levels S & T.

Guided Reading

250 Passages With Text-Based Questions Levels C - P

Includes: Guided Reading Level C, Guided Reading Level D, Guided Reading Level E, Guided Reading Level F, Guided Reading Level G & H, Guided Reading Level I & J, Guided Reading Level K & L, Guided Reading Level M & N, Guided Reading Level O & P, Guided Reading Level Q & R, Guided Reading Level S & T.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at AnneGardner4@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

Sincerely, Anne Gardner (NBCT, Literacy)



Guided Reading

Levels K & L

Comprehension Passages with Text-Based Questions

Name _____

The Mirror

A Traditional Tale - Retold by Anne Gardner



Many years ago, the Pandetti family lived in the mountains. Grandpa Pandetti traveled into the village to trade his goods.

While he was there, he looked for a special gift for his family. After a long search, he found a lovely mirror. No one in his family had ever seen a mirror. Grandpa Pandetti bought the mirror and hurried home to his family.

It was late when Grandpa arrived home. He hung the mirror on the wall and then fell fast asleep.

Early in the morning, little Paul Pandetti awoke. As he walked into the room, he saw a young boy looking back at him. "Papa, someone has broken into our house," Paul cried.

Papa hurried down. He glanced at the mirror and saw a strong man looking back at him. He glared at the man. The man glared back. He pounded his hand on the table and watched as the man pounded his hand on the table.

Mama Pandetti came into the room. She stopped in her tracks when she saw a young woman looking at her. Mama Pandetti smiled and waved at the woman. The woman smiled and waved back at Mama.

Papa watched her with curiosity and then stepped up to the mirror with a smile. The strong man appeared once again in the mirror, but this time he wore a smile upon his face.

From that day forward, the Pandetti family smiled as they walked through the room. They were always greeted by a warm smile.

Smile and the world will smile along with you.

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Name _____

The Mirror



1. Why did Grandpa Pandetti go to town?
- A. to learn about mirrors
 - B. to trade his goods
 - C. to visit his family
 - D. all of the above

2. What did Grandpa Pandetti do when he got home?
- A. He told his family about the mirror.
 - B. He hung the mirror on the wall.
 - C. He made dinner for himself.
 - D. None of the above.

- The author most likely wrote this story to _____.
- A. teach the reader about mirrors
 - B. teach the reader about life in the mountains
 - C. entertain the reader
 - D. show the reader how to hang a mirror

- How did the Pandettis solve the problem in this story?
- A. They took the mirror off the wall.
 - B. They smiled whenever they looked in the mirror.
 - C. They made friends with their visitors.
 - D. All of the above.

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Reading Comprehension Pack

Name _____

The Mirror

A Traditional Tale - Retold by Anne Gardner



Many years ago, the Pandetti family lived in the mountains. Grandpa Pandetti traveled into the village to trade his goods.

While he was there, he looked for a special gift for his family. After a long search, he found a lovely mirror. No one in his family had ever seen a mirror. Grandpa Pandetti bought the mirror and hurried home to his family.

It was late when Grandpa arrived home. He hung the mirror on the wall and then fell fast asleep.

Early in the morning, little Paul Pandetti awoke. As he walked into the room, he saw a young boy looking back at him. "Papa, someone has broken into our house," Paul cried.

Papa hurried down. He glanced at the mirror and saw a strong man looking back at him. He glared at the man. The man glared back. He pounded his hand on the table and watched as the man pounded his hand on the table.

Mama Pandetti came into the room. She stopped in her tracks when she saw a young woman looking at her. Mama Pandetti smiled and waved at the woman. The woman smiled and waved back at Mama.

Papa watched her with curiosity and then stepped up to the mirror with a smile. The strong man appeared once again in the mirror, but this time he wore a smile upon his face.

From that day forward, the Pandetti family smiled as they walked through the room. They were always greeted by a smile in return.

Moral: Smile and the world will smile along with you.

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Name: _____

Name _____

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A Traditional Tale - Retold by Anne Gardner



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Name _____



The Mirror

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 - B. They smiled whenever they looked in the mirror.
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 - D. All of the above.

Name _____

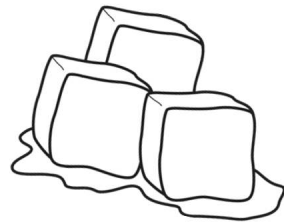
The Mirror



Why did Paul Pandetti think someone had broken into the house?

Do you think the mirror was a good gift for Grandpa to get for the family? Why or why not?

Name _____



States of Matter

Everything we can see and touch is made of matter. Rocks are made of matter. Water and air are matter.

Matter can take different forms.

The water we swim in is in liquid form. Liquids take the shape of whatever container they are in. Water in a round swimming pool takes the shape of the round pool. If it rains too much, water may spill over.

If we change the temperature of water, we can also change its state.

In the winter, we can skate on ice. Ice is water frozen into a solid state. Solids can keep their size and shape, even when they are moved from one location to another. Some solids, like ice, can change into another form of matter when they are heated.

Water can also take the form of a gas. When we boil water to make hot cocoa or tea, the steam that rises from the kettle is a gas. We can see the steam in the air. Be careful not to reach out and touch it. Steam can leave a nasty burn!

A Science Experiment to Try with an Adult:

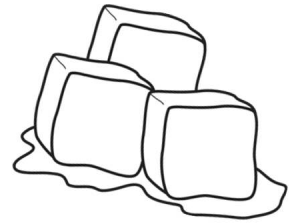
Would you like to see three states of matter?

Start with an ice cube. Ice is a solid. Put the ice cube in a pan for an hour. The ice cube will melt into a liquid form.

Ask an adult to help you boil the water on the stove. Watch as the liquid evaporates, turning into a gas. Steam is a gas. When steam cools, it can turn back into water.

Name _____

States of Matter



1. According to this passage _____.

- A. a liquid takes the shape of its container
- B. a solid takes the shape of its container
- C. water cannot turn into steam
- D. none of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mostly to _____.

- A. teach children about staying safe
- B. help the reader learn about the states of matter
- C. prove that solids are better than liquids
- D. none of the above.

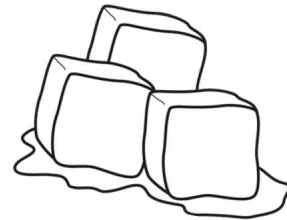
3. What is an example of matter in a liquid form?

- A. ice
- B. steam
- C. water
- D. all of the above

4. Why would someone do the experiment at the bottom of the page?

- A. to melt some snow
- B. to see the 3 states of matter
- C. to make hot cocoa
- D. none of the above

Name _____



States of Matter

What are the three states of matter discussed in this passage?

Use what you know and information from this passage to name at least three examples of matter in a liquid state.

Tom said, "A solid takes the shape of its container." Do you agree with Tom? Explain your answer.

Name _____

The Dog and His Bone

A Traditional Tale retold by Anne Gardner



One day, Dog was walking through the forest on a lovely little path. By the path, he found a big bone with lots of meat on it. He was overjoyed!

Dog picked up the bone and took just a little taste of the juicy meat. Then, he set out to carry the bone home. As he walked, he sang, "This bone is mine, all mine, and it is mighty fine!"

Soon, Dog came to a little bridge. A clear blue stream ran under the bridge.

Dog looked down at the water and stopped in his tracks. In the water, he saw another dog. The dog had a bone, and that bone was bigger than his.

Dog thought for a moment. His bone was fine, but the other bone was bigger and it looked even better. Greed overtook him. Dog opened his mouth to grab the other dog's bone. As he did, his own bone fell into the clear water.

Dog watched as ripples spread across the water. His bone fell through the water and settled at the bottom of the stream.

Instead of going home with the bigger bone, Dog went home with none. That night, Dog slept restlessly as he dreamed of the bone he had found along the forest path.

Moral: It is often best to be happy with what you have.

Name _____



The Dog and His Bone

1. This passage is _____.
 - A. a story with a moral
 - B. fiction
 - C. a traditional tale
 - D. all of the above
2. Why did Dog drop his bone?
 - A. He did not like the bone.
 - B. He wanted to wash it in the stream.
 - C. He wanted to get a bigger bone.
 - D. None of the above.
3. What happened after Dog dropped his bone?
 - A. He came to a little bridge.
 - B. He sang a little song.
 - C. He slept restlessly.
 - D. None of the above.
4. *The Dog and His Bone* is mostly about _____.
 - A. what dogs like to eat
 - B. a greedy dog
 - C. a path in the forest
 - D. a bridge over a stream

Name _____

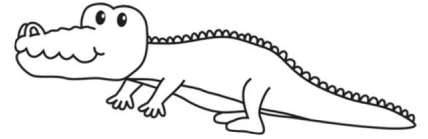
The Dog and His Bone



What did Dog think he saw when he looked down from the bridge?

What did Dog *really* see when he looked down from the bridge?

Each person who tells a traditional tale can put his or her own spin on the story. If you were telling *The Dog and His Bone*, how would you change the story? Why?



Birds and Reptiles

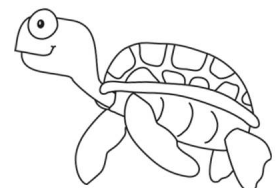
Birds and reptiles are similar in many ways. They are both vertebrates, meaning they have a backbone. Both birds and reptiles lay eggs that have a protective shell. The shell keeps the eggs from drying out. Both birds and reptiles have lungs and breathe air.

Reptiles and birds are also different in some important ways. Birds are warm-blooded. They are able to regulate the temperature of their bodies. Birds do not have teeth. They grind their food in their gizzard.

Birds have feathers that help keep them warm. All birds have wings, but not all birds fly. Penguins, for instance, use their wings as flippers to help them swim. Ostriches use their wings to help them balance as they run at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour.

Reptiles are cold-blooded. They can't regulate their own body heat, so they rely on warmth from the sun. Turtles, crocodiles, snakes and lizards are reptiles. Reptiles are covered with scales and all reptiles have teeth.

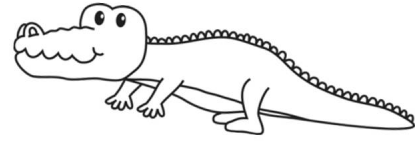
Some people believe that birds may have evolved from reptiles. That may be one reason that birds and reptiles are so similar.



Name _____



Birds and Reptiles



1. How are reptiles and birds similar?

- A. Reptiles and birds are both vertebrates.
- B. Reptiles and birds both have wings.
- C. Reptiles and birds both have teeth.
- D. All of the above.

2. Which statement is an opinion?

- A. Birds are more interesting than reptiles.
- B. Reptiles are cold-blooded.
- C. Birds are warm-blooded.
- D. Reptiles and birds both lay eggs.

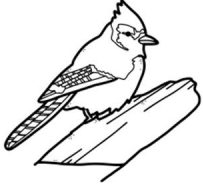
3. Which statement is true?

- A. All birds have wings.
- B. All birds can fly.
- C. All reptiles have gills so they can breathe underwater.
- D. None of the above.

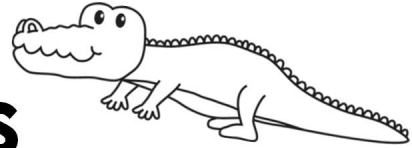
4. What's one way in which birds and reptiles are different?

- A. Birds have scales and reptiles don't.
- B. Birds and reptiles both lay eggs.
- C. Reptiles have teeth and birds don't.
- D. None of the above.

Name _____



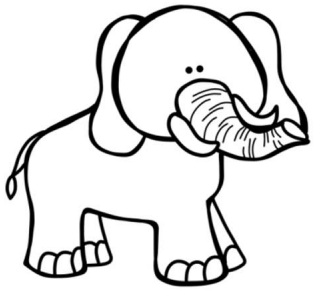
Birds and Reptiles



List two ways in which birds and reptiles are similar.

List two ways in which birds and reptiles are different.

Rate this passage on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 meaning you found this passage very interesting and 1 meaning you did not find this passage interesting at all. Justify your rating.



Name _____

Elephant and Monkey

A Tale from India - Retold by Anne Gardner



Long ago and far away, a wise old owl heard Monkey and Elephant arguing. Elephant boasted, "I am so strong that I can push down a tree with my trunk!"

Monkey bragged, "I can run and climb like no other animal!" As the owl flew by, Monkey asked, "Is it better to be strong like an elephant or to be agile like a monkey?"

The wise owl said, "Whooo is ready for a task that will help you solve your problem? There is a fruit tree across the river. Go, pick the ripest fruit, and bring it to me."

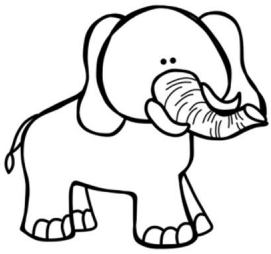
Elephant and Monkey went straight to the river. The water ran quickly, and Monkey was afraid to cross. "Get on my back," said Elephant. "I am big and strong. I can walk across the river." Reluctantly, Monkey climbed onto Elephant's back. Across the river they went.

They found that the trunk of the tree was wide and strong. The fruit hung high above them. Elephant tried to break the tree down, but he could not budge it. He tried to reach the fruit with his trunk, but it was much too high.

"I can climb," exclaimed Monkey. He scampered up the tree and threw the ripest, juiciest fruit down to Elephant. Elephant grasped the fruit with his trunk. Monkey climbed on Elephant's back, and they proceeded to cross the river and bring the fruit to the owl.

The wise old owl gratefully accepted the fruit and asked, "Whooo learned a lesson today?"

Monkey and Elephant looked at one another, smiled and said, "Together, we can do great things!"

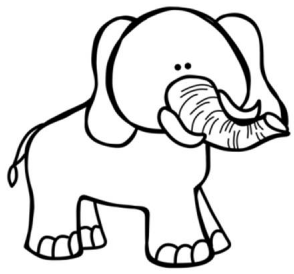


Name _____

Elephant and Monkey



1. Why didn't Monkey get the fruit by himself?
 - A. Monkey didn't like fruit.
 - B. The fruit was too high up in the tree.
 - C. Monkey was scared to cross the river.
 - D. Elephant had already eaten it up.
2. How did the wise old owl help Elephant and Monkey?
 - A. He told them where to find fruit.
 - B. He proved that being strong was more important.
 - C. He proved that being agile was more important.
 - D. He helped them learn to work together.
3. How did Monkey feel about climbing on Elephant's back to cross the river the first time?
 - A. He was angry because he did not like the river.
 - B. He was tired, so he was happy to get a ride.
 - C. He really didn't want to, but he did anyway.
 - D. He was happy to ride on Elephant's back.
4. What lesson could be learned from this story?
 - A. It is hard to find food in the jungle.
 - B. Only large animals should cross rivers.
 - C. It is best to work together.
 - D. It is important to be the strongest.



Name _____

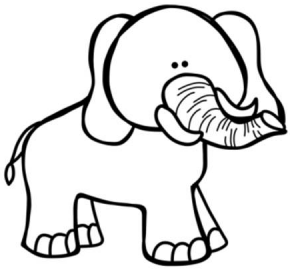


Elephant and Monkey

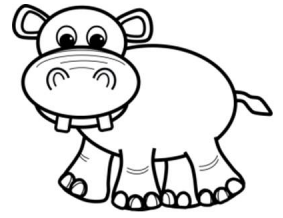
How did Elephant help Monkey in this story?

How did Monkey help Elephant in this story?

What lesson could be learned from this story?



Name _____



Tug of War

Traditional African Tale - Retold by Anne Gardner

Tortoise crawled slowly along a trail. Hippo had just chased him out of the river, and he was angry. Just then, Elephant came along and nearly stepped on him.

“Watch where you are stepping, you big brute,” called Tortoise.

Elephant harshly replied, “You step off my trail, Tortoise, or your day will go from bad to worse.”

“You don’t scare me,” Tortoise replied. “I am much stronger than you know. I am easily as strong as you.” Elephant laughed at Tortoise’s reply.

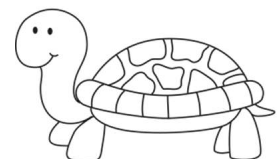
“I challenge you to a contest of tug of war!” Tortoise called. Elephant chuckled as he accepted. Tortoise called, “Hold on to one end of this vine. I’ll walk to the river with the other end. When I call, ‘Pull with all your might,’ the contest shall begin.”

Elephant held the vine in his trunk as Tortoise plodded back to the river, where he found Hippo. Tortoise challenged Hippo to the very same contest. Hippo held tight to the other end of the vine as Tortoise walked up the trail.

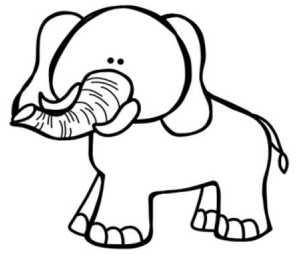
Tortoise hid in the bushes and called, “Pull with all your might!” Hippo and Elephant each pulled and tugged, but neither of them could gain any ground.

After a long battle, Tortoise suggested, “Let’s call it a tie before the vine breaks.” Both Elephant and Hippo were happy to have a chance to catch their breath.

Tortoise ambled on and neither Elephant nor Hippo ever bothered him again.



Name _____



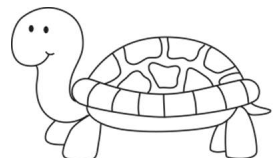
Tug of War

1. What happened after Tortoise challenged Elephant to a contest of tug of war?
 - A. Hippo chased Tortoise out of the river.
 - B. Tortoise challenged Hippo to the very same contest.
 - C. Elephant almost stepped on Tortoise.
 - D. All of the above.

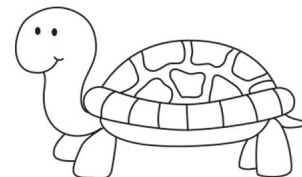
2. What happened before Tortoise suggested they call the contest a tie?
 - A. Elephant held one end of the vine.
 - B. Hippo and Elephant tugged and pulled on the vine.
 - C. Tortoise plodded to the river.
 - D. All of the above.

3. The author most likely wrote this story to _____.
 - A. teach the reader about animals
 - B. teach the reader all about tug of war
 - C. entertain the reader
 - D. none of the above

4. This passage is _____.
 - A. an informational passage
 - B. a nonfiction passage
 - C. a tale from Africa
 - D. all of the above



Name _____



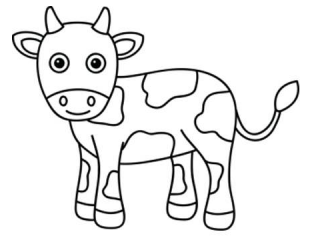
Tug of War

In your opinion, which animal in this story was smartest?
Justify your answer.

If you decided to create your own version of this folktale,
what would you change? Why?

Do you think the author wants the reader to think it is more
important to be strong or to be smart? How do you know?

Name _____



Silly Simon

A Traditional Tale from Holland - Retold by Anne Gardner

A poor boy named Simon lived in Holland many years ago. One day, Simon's mother told him to take their only cow to town and sell her for no less than fifty silver coins.

About a mile down the road, Simon passed three rascals. "Let's trick Simon out of his cow," said the first rascal. They put their heads together and quickly came up with a plan. The three rascals raced ahead and stood about a half a mile apart along the road.

As Simon passed the first rascal, the man said, "What a nice old horse you have!" Simon shook his head and kept on walking until he came to the second rascal.

"Good day," said the second rascal. "Why aren't you riding your horse?"

Simon replied, "Are you blind? This is a cow. I am taking her to market as my mama asked me to."

As Simon neared the village, the third rascal approached him and asked, "Good man, is your horse for sale?"

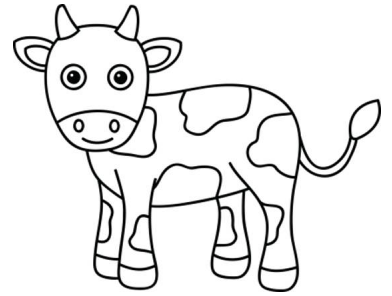
"That does it," said Simon to himself. "It must be a horse after all."

"I will give you twenty silver coins for the horse," said the third rascal. Simon knew that twenty silver coins was a good price for an old horse.

"It's a deal," said Simon. Simon walked home, quite pleased with himself. When Simon arrived home, he gave his mama the twenty silver coins and told her the story of how he had sold their horse.

Mama quietly replied, "What comes around, goes around. We shall pay those rascals a visit tomorrow."

Name _____



Silly Simon

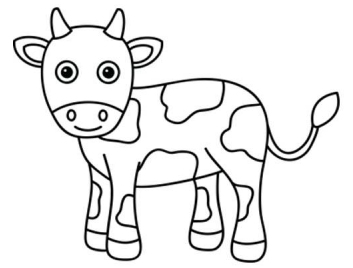
1. What happened as Simon was taking the cow to town?
 - A. He talked to the rascals along the way.
 - B. He walked at least a mile.
 - C. He sold the cow along the way.
 - D. All of the above.

2. What do we know about Simon?
 - A. His family was rich.
 - B. He had a goat.
 - C. He was very clever.
 - D. None of the above.

3. What did Mama want Simon to come home with?
 - A. twenty silver coins
 - B. a horse
 - C. at least fifty silver coins
 - D. none of the above

4. Why did Simon sell the animal for twenty silver coins?
 - A. His Mama asked him to.
 - B. He was too tired to walk all the way to the market.
 - C. The rascals convinced him it was a horse.
 - D. All of the above.

Name _____

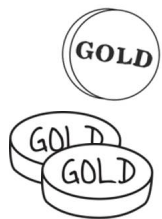


Silly Simon

What was the rascals' plan? How do you know?

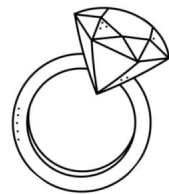
What lesson could Simon learn from this story?

Name _____



Silly Simon's Revenge

A Traditional Tale from Holland - Retold by Anne Gardner



Long ago, three rascals tricked Simon out of his family's only cow. The very next day, Simon and his Mama set out to teach those rascals a lesson. In the morning, Mama walked to town to set the stage. Then she returned home, gave Simon a tarnished old ring, and told him exactly what to do.

Simon set out for town that afternoon. He arrived at an inn where the three rascals were planning their next heist. Simon joined them and offered to buy their drinks. When it came time to pay the bill, Simon held up his hand and slowly twisted the ring on his finger three times. Then he asked the innkeeper, "How much do I owe?"

"Nothing," said the innkeeper. "It's taken care of."

The three rascals looked at one another, but said nothing. They walked with Simon to the next inn, where Simon offered to treat them to a fine dinner. After dinner, Simon held up his hand and slowly twisted the ring three times. The innkeeper came to the table, thanked them for coming and announced that the bill was covered.

The rascals asked Simon where the ring had come from. Simon replied, "Mama found it buried in the sand. She said it is worth a fortune."

"We'll give you one hundred silver coins for it!" said the first rascal.

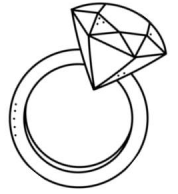
"It's a deal," Simon replied. He took the coins straight home.

Mama was pleased. "Now we have one hundred silver coins," she said. "Fifty coins will pay for the cow. Twenty coins will cover the food and drink and the final thirty coins will teach those rascals a lesson." The three rascals never bothered Simon again.

Name _____

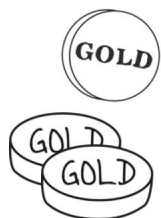


Silly Simon's Revenge



1. Why did Mama want to teach the rascals a lesson?
 - A. The rascals did not pay for their dinner.
 - B. The rascals tricked Simon out of his family's cow.
 - C. The rascals took Simon's horse.
 - D. None of the above.
2. Why did Mama most likely go to town?
 - A. to find the rascals
 - B. to give the innkeepers money for the food and drinks
 - C. to find the cow Simon sold and get it back
 - D. none of the above
3. What happened before the rascals bought the ring?
 - A. The rascals tricked Simon out of his family's cow.
 - B. Simon held up his hand and slowly twisted the ring.
 - C. Simon offered to treat the rascals to dinner.
 - D. All of the above.
4. The author most likely wrote this story to _____.
 - A. teach the reader about Holland
 - B. teach the reader about magic rings
 - C. entertain the reader
 - D. none of the above

Name _____



Silly Simon's Revenge

Who do you think Mama talked to when she went to town? What do you think she might have said?

Was the old ring really magic? How do you know?

Do you think Mama and Simon should have tricked the rascals? Why or why not?

Name _____



Lions and Tigers



Lions and tigers both belong to the cat family. They are similar in many ways. Both lions and tigers are mammals. They give birth to live young called cubs. The cubs are blind and helpless when they are born. A cub must drink its mother's milk until it is ready to eat solid food.

Both lions and tigers need to eat meat to survive. Most lions live in a group called a pride. The females, called lionesses, hunt together. Tigers most often live on their own, except for when a mother tiger is raising cubs.

Like all cats, both lions and tigers can see well in the dark. This may be one of the reasons they often hunt at night. Lions and tigers both have big paws with long, sharp claws and a fearsome roar!

Most lions live in Africa. Their fur is the color of dry grass. This makes them difficult to see on the grassy plains where they live. Lion cubs are born with spots that fade away as they grow.

Most tigers live in Asia. Tigers have stripes that help them blend into the forests and jungles where they live. On a hot day, a tiger will cool off in a jungle pool or look for a shady spot where it can sleep.

Both lions and tigers are apex predators. This means that they are each at the top of their food chain. In the wild, they hunt for other animals but have no natural predators.

Name _____



Lions and Tigers



1. According to this passage _____.

- A. all lions are tigers and all tigers are lions
- B. all mammals are lions and tigers
- C. lions and tigers are members of the cat family
- D. all of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mostly to _____.

- A. teach the reader about lions and tigers
- B. help the reader stay safe while watching big cats
- C. explain why tigers are better than lions
- D. explain why lions are better than tigers

3. How are lions and tigers alike?

- A. Both lions and tigers live in Africa.
- B. Both lions and tigers are mammals.
- C. Both lions and tigers cool off in jungle pools.
- D. All of the above.

4. According to this passage, tiger and lion cubs _____.

- A. are mammals
- B. drink their mother's milk
- C. are blind when they are born
- D. all of the above

Name _____



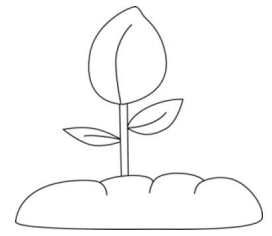
Lions and Tigers

If the author asked you to choose one word from this passage to present in bold print, which word would you choose? Why?

What is one way in which lions and tigers are different?

Joe said, "Lions are better than tigers." Do you agree with him? Is Joe's statement a fact or an opinion?

Name _____



All About Soil

Soil is an important natural resource. Most plants need soil to live. Farmers grow crops in soil. The grass we walk on grows in soil. Most plants have roots that reach down into the soil. The roots spread out. Soil helps the plants stand up.

Plants get some of their food and water from the soil. Their roots collect nutrients and water that help the plants grow.

Animals, including people, need soil to live too. Some animals eat plants. Other animals eat the animals that eat plants. Without soil, most plants could not grow. Without plants, many animals would have nothing to eat. Animals need soil.

Not all soils are the same. Sandy soil is very dry. It does not hold water very well. Most plants do not grow well in sandy soil.

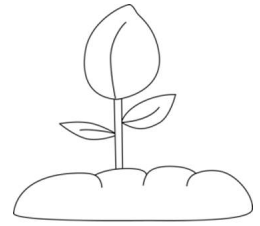
Rich, moist soil that has humus in it is good for growing most plants. Humus has a lot of food, or nutrients, in it. Soil that has a lot of humus is often wet and crumbly. Farmers and gardeners usually prefer this kind of soil, which some gardeners refer to as “black gold.”

Earthworms dig through soil. As they do, they loosen the soil. That makes the soil good for growing things.

We need soil so we can have grass to walk on, trees to climb, and healthy food to eat.

Humus: Rich, dark material that forms in soil when plant and animal matter decays.

Name _____



All About Soil

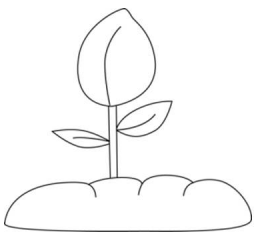
1. According to this passage _____.
 - A. people need soil
 - B. some people call rich soil “black gold”
 - C. plants can get some nutrients from soil
 - D. all of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mostly to _____.
 - A. teach the reader about growing a garden
 - B. help the reader learn why worms are important
 - C. explain why soil is important
 - D. none of the above

3. The author implies that humus _____.
 - A. is disgusting because it is made from decaying plants
 - B. makes soil dry
 - C. should not be allowed in soil used to grow food
 - D. none of the above

4. Why do gardeners refer to some soil as black gold?
 - A. It has little chunks of gold in it.
 - B. It is sandy and dry.
 - C. It is good for growing plants.
 - D. All of the above.

Name _____



All About Soil

Randy stated, “Before you plant a garden, it is important to get all the worms out of the soil.”

Do you agree with Randy? Why or why not?

The author states that soil is an important natural resource. Why is soil important? Provide at least 3 details from the passage to support your answer.

Name _____

Redwood Trees

Redwood trees are sometimes called “nature’s skyscrapers” because they are the tallest trees in the world. Many redwoods are over 300 feet tall. Scientists have even found some redwood trees that are over 350 feet tall. That’s taller than the Statue of Liberty!



The largest redwood trees grow within 50 miles of the Pacific Ocean. Many of these giant trees can be found along the coasts of California and Oregon. The climate along the coast is foggy and rainy. This gives the redwoods a steady supply of water.

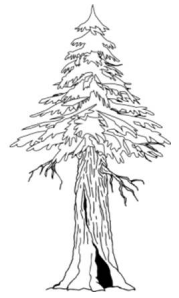
The bark of a redwood tree can be up to one foot thick. This thick bark helps protect the tree from insects, disease, and even fire. The bark and wood of a redwood tree contain tannin, which repels insects. Termites and carpenter ants that damage many other trees will not burrow into redwood trees because of the tannin.

Redwood trees have shallow roots that can reach out 100 feet from the base of the tree. These roots intertwine with the roots of other redwood trees, helping to keep the trees stable during floods and strong winds. In this way, redwoods truly help support each other!

Redwood trees are the largest living thing on earth. It is difficult to imagine how big redwood trees can be. Want to get a better understanding of the size of these trees? Cut a piece of string about 95 feet long. Tie the ends of the string together and spread the string out into a circle. The circle will be about as big around as the base of one of the larger redwood trees.

That’s a **very** big tree!

Name _____



Redwood Trees

1. Redwood trees are _____.
- A. trees that have thick bark
 - B. trees that have shallow roots
 - C. sometimes called “nature’s skyscrapers”
 - D. all of the above

2. The author wrote this passage mainly to _____.
- A. teach the reader about California
 - B. help the reader learn about termites
 - C. help the reader learn about redwood trees
 - D. teach the reader about the roots of trees

3. Which statement is true?
- A. All redwood trees are taller than the Statue of Liberty.
 - B. Redwood trees have deep roots.
 - C. Most redwood trees grow near the Atlantic Ocean.
 - D. None of the above.

4. Why don’t termites burrow into redwood trees?
- A. Redwood trees are too big for termites to eat.
 - B. Redwood trees have shallow roots.
 - C. The bark and wood of a redwood contain tannin.
 - D. None of the above.

Name _____

Redwood Trees

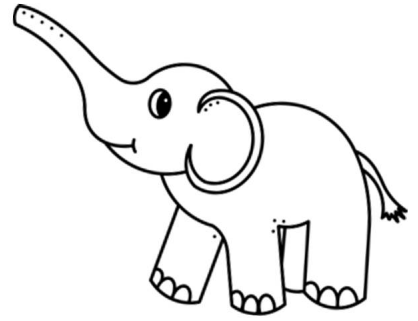


Jane read this article and then stated, “All redwood trees are taller than the Statue of Liberty.”

Do you agree with Jane? Why or why not?

What could a person learn about redwood trees from this passage? Include at least 3 details from the story.

The Amazing Elephant Trunk



People have long been fascinated by elephants. There could be many reasons for this.

The African elephant is the world's largest land animal, growing up to 11 feet tall and weighing as much as 14,000 pounds. These huge animals can survive by eating grass, bark, leaves and berries.

An elephant's tusks never stop growing. But, it is primarily the elephant's trunk that makes this animal so interesting.

An elephant's strong, flexible trunk can do many things. Elephants can use their trunks, which can be up to five feet long, to pick up small pieces of fruit or lift large tree branches. With their trunks, they can reach high up into trees to gather the tastiest leaves.

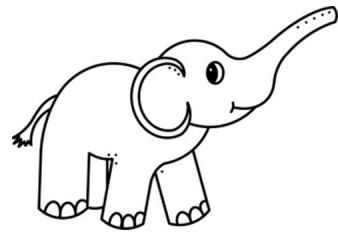
Elephants drink large amounts of water each day. An elephant's trunk can hold over a gallon of water. Elephants can use their trunks like straws. First, the elephant will suck water into its trunk. Then, it pokes the end of its trunk into its mouth to give itself a nice refreshing drink.

Sometimes, elephants will use their trunks like showers. They can fill their trunk up with water and spray themselves.

Elephants use their trunks to smell and to breathe. They also reach out to greet one another with their trunks. A baby elephant will sometimes use its trunk to hold on to its mother's tail so it doesn't get lost as they walk to find a new feeding area.

As it swims, an elephant can hold its trunk above the water to breathe. It looks like the elephant is using a snorkel!

Name _____



The Amazing Elephant Trunk

1. According to this passage, an elephant can use its trunk to _____.

- A. pick up small pieces of fruit
- B. lift heavy branches
- C. greet another elephant
- D. all of the above

2. Why does a baby elephant hold on to its mother's tail?

- A. to play tag
- B. so it doesn't get lost
- C. to use it as a snorkel
- D. all of the above

3. Which of these statements is an opinion?

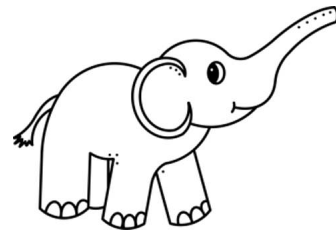
- A. Elephants use their trunks to smell and to breathe.
- B. An African elephant can weigh as much as 14,000 pounds.
- C. Elephants are the most amazing animals on earth.
- D. All of the above.

4. The author wrote this passage mainly to _____.

- A. teach the reader how much elephants can weigh
- B. help the reader learn about elephant trunks
- C. prove that elephants are more interesting than hippos
- D. none of the above

Name _____

The Amazing Elephant Trunk

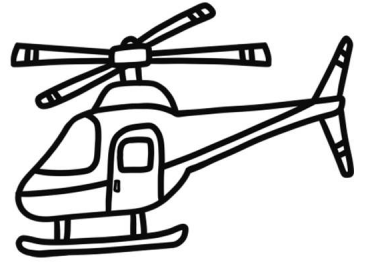


Write two facts about an elephant's trunk.

Write an opinion about an elephant's trunk.

What did you find most surprising or interesting as you read this passage?

Name _____



All About Helicopters

A helicopter is a type of aircraft that uses rotors to fly. Rotors allow helicopters to do things that airplanes cannot do. Unlike an airplane, a helicopter can hover in one spot and can fly both forwards and backwards.

Helicopters can take off without a runway and can land where there is not enough room for an airplane to land. This allows them to get to many hard to access areas.

Some small helicopters are designed to carry just one person. Larger helicopters can carry many people and can lift and transport heavy objects. The military uses helicopters to move troops and to get supplies to remote areas.

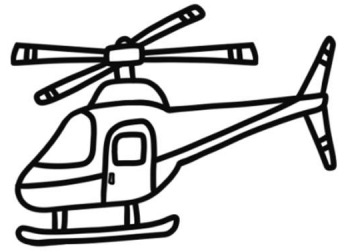
Firefighters sometimes use helicopters to help fight wildfires. A big bucket, called a helibucket, can hang under the helicopter and drop water directly on the fire.

Police also use helicopters. Police helicopters have special equipment such as strong lights that can shine down on the ground. This can be very helpful for search and rescue missions.

Helicopters are useful for medical transport. They can be used as flying ambulances to bring sick or injured people from one place to another quickly.

Most helicopters are quite noisy. Because of the sound they make, they are sometimes called choppers.

Name _____



All About Helicopters

1. This passage is _____.

- A. a news article
- B. an informational passage
- C. a folktale
- D. all of the above

2. What do rotors allow helicopters to do?

- A. hover in one place
- B. fly backwards
- C. fly forwards
- D. all of the above

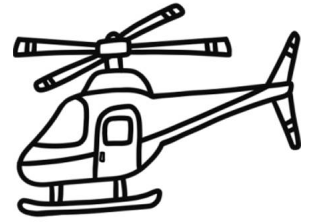
3. According to this passage, helicopters are used by

- A. firefighters and construction workers.
- B. schools and newspaper reporters.
- C. firefighters and police.
- D. all of the above.

4. The author most likely believes that _____.

- A. airplanes are much better than helicopters
- B. helicopters can be useful
- C. riding in a helicopter is quiet and peaceful
- D. all of the above

Name _____



All About Helicopters

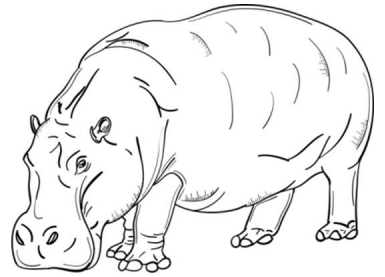
Why do people sometimes call helicopters choppers?

How are helicopters used? Give at least 2 examples from the passage.

Think of a time when a helicopter would be more useful than an airplane. Explain why a helicopter would be better in this situation.

Name _____

All About Hippos



A hippopotamus is a very large, heavy animal. A hippo can be up to 12 feet long and can weigh 2 – 3 tons.

Hippos have thick barrel-shaped bodies. Even their skin is thick. Hippos' legs look short compared to their huge bodies. Hippos have small eyes and ears on their big heads.

Hippos are mammals, and all mammals have hair. It can be difficult to see a hippo's hair, as they have just a few hairs on their ears, their nose, and the tip of their tail.

Like other mammals, hippos give birth to live young. Baby hippos usually weigh between 50 and 100 pounds when they are born. They are most often born underwater. As soon as a baby hippo is born, it must swim to the surface to breathe.

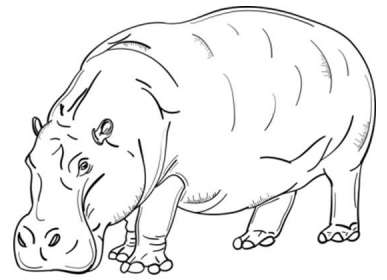
In the water, baby hippos can often be seen riding on their mothers' backs. This helps them stay safe from crocodiles.

Hippos live in herds and tend to stay close together. They live by streams and rivers in many parts of Africa. During the day, they like to sleep and rest in the water.

At night, hippos often leave the water to feed on grass. When food is plentiful, a hippo will spend about 6 hours a day eating grass. Hippos often pull the grass right up out of the ground. When the ground is bare, the herd moves on to look for another feeding place.

During a drought, streams and feeding places can dry up. When this happens, hippos sometimes coat themselves in mud to keep the hot sun off their skin, lie down, and wait for the rain to come.

Name _____



All About Hippos

1. The author's purpose in writing this passage was to ____.

- A. warn people to stay away from hippos
- B. help the reader learn about hippos
- C. compare hippos to elephants
- D. all of the above

2. According to this passage, a hippo ____.

- A. is a mammal
- B. usually weighs 50 to 100 pounds when it is born
- C. often pulls grass out of the ground as it eats
- D. all of the above

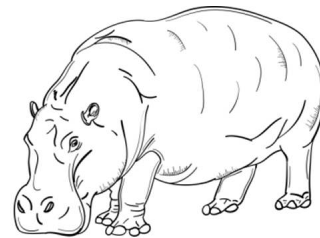
3. Hippos are very big! They have huge ____.

- A. eyes
- B. bodies
- C. ears
- D. all of the above

4. Why does a baby hippo ride on its mother's back?

- A. to keep the sun off her skin
- B. to feed on grass
- C. to stay safe from crocodiles
- D. none of the above

Name _____



All About Hippos

What could a person learn about baby hippos from this passage? Use at least 2 details from the passage.

What can hippos do during a drought?

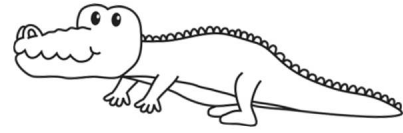
Jill said, "Hippos do not have hair so they are not mammals."
Would the author of this passage agree with Jill?

Name _____



Rabbit's Great Escape

A traditional tale - Retold by Anne Gardner



Rabbit was stranded on an island not far from the mainland. Looking across the water, she was able to see her cousins hopping, playing and eating fresh green grass. She was the only rabbit on the island, and she was very lonely.

One day, Rabbit looked out and saw the tip of an alligator's tail. He lurked in the water, swimming back and forth in front of her. As Rabbit watched, she came up with an idea. Rabbit called out, "Alligator, Alligator, what a lovely day for a swim!"

"Who dares call my name?" grumbled Alligator, as he popped his head above the water.

"It's me! I'm over here," responded Rabbit. "You live in the ocean and I enjoy my home on this island. Do you think there are more alligators in the sea or more rabbits on land?"

"Of course, there are more alligators," Alligator answered.

"I have seen far more rabbits than alligators," Rabbit teased. "But then, you alligators are always hiding under the water."

"If I were to call all my brothers and sisters, you would see," replied Alligator.

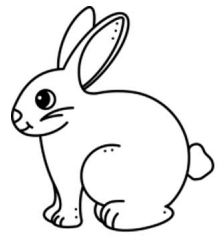
Rabbit responded, "There could never be enough alligators to reach from this island to the mainland."

"See for yourself," said Alligator. He called to all his relatives, who joined him by the island. "It will be simple for us to make a line stretching from here to the mainland."

"Oh, it's wonderful," responded Rabbit. "Would you splendid creatures let me count you? Don't move!" Rabbit counted out loud as she hopped from one alligator to another.

When she reached the mainland, Rabbit called out, "Thank you so much for helping me build a bridge from the island." Then Rabbit hopped away, just as fast as she could.

Name _____



Rabbit's Great Escape

1. Why did Rabbit want to talk to Alligator?

- A. Alligator was Rabbit's friend.
- B. Rabbit was planning to trick Alligator.
- C. Rabbit wanted to learn to swim.
- D. All of the above.

2. What happened before Rabbit counted the alligators?

- A. Alligator called his brothers and sisters.
- B. Rabbit was stranded on an island.
- C. Rabbit could see her cousins eating green grass.
- D. All of the above.

3. This passage is _____.

- A. an informational article
- B. a traditional tale
- C. a news story
- D. none of the above

4. This passage is mostly about _____.

- A. life on an island
- B. how Rabbit tricked Alligator
- C. a friendly alligator
- D. counting alligators

Name _____



Rabbit's Great Escape

Rabbit told Alligator that she liked her home on the island. Do you think she really liked her island home? How do you know?

Do you think Rabbit's plan was a good one? Why or why not? Use details from the story to justify your answer.

Why did Rabbit hop away as fast as she could when she reached the mainland?

Answer Key for Reading Comprehension Passages Levels K/L

The Mirror

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. B

States of Matter

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. B

The Dog & His Bone

1. D
2. C
3. C
4. B

Reptiles & Birds

1. A
2. A
3. A
4. C

Elephant & Monkey

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. C

Tug of War

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. C

Silly Simon

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. C

Silly Simon's Revenge

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. C

Lions & Tigers

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D

All About Soil

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. C

Redwood Trees

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. C

The Amazing Elephant Trunk

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. B

All About Helicopters

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. B

All About Hippos

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. C

Rabbit's Great Escape

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. B

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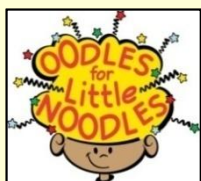
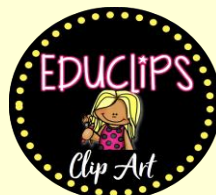
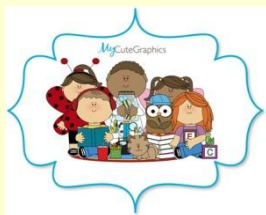
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Levels C - P

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Sincerely, Anne Gardner (NBCT, Literacy)

