

Focus Skill: Summarizing with Tables and Charts

- I. Instructions: Read the passage and complete the table using the information.

Amphibians and reptiles are two classes of animals that are in many ways quite similar. Both animals tend to spend their lives partly in water and partly on land, though this is not always the case. Both are cold-blooded, meaning they depend upon the environment for body warmth. They also often have similar appearances, including greenish skin and long, low bodies. Finally, both classes of animals lay eggs. Despite these similarities, amphibians and reptiles are different in important ways.

Amphibians include frogs, toads, salamanders, and snake-like species called caecilians. Almost all species of amphibians must spend part of their lives in water. For example, they usually reproduce and lay their eggs in water. These eggs are soft and jelly-like. Furthermore, young amphibians are often born in a larval or worm-like stage in water. They are born with gills to breathe the oxygen in water and develop lungs to breathe air as they become adults. Finally, the skin of amphibians is usually smooth and wet, though toads are a notable exception to this rule.

Reptiles include lizards, turtles, and snakes. While many reptiles, like turtles and crocodiles for example, spend much of their lives in water, they lay their eggs on land. Unlike amphibians, reptiles lay eggs with protective shells and young reptiles do not go through a larval stage. Also, reptiles are born with lungs rather than gills, so they can't remain under water as long as amphibians can. Finally, reptile skin is usually dry and is covered with relatively hard scales.

Both amphibians and reptiles can be found in most areas on Earth. With recent changes in the Earth's environment and human expansion into their natural habitats, many species of both classes are starting to disappear. Hopefully, plans to protect these animals for future generations to study and enjoy will be successful.

Directions : Select appropriate phrases from the passage and write them under the type of animal that they describe .

Amphibians

Reptiles

II. Diet and Energy Instructions: Read the passage and create a table using the underlined information.

Recent studies have shown that more and more students are choosing unhealthy ways to boost energy. The two main ways chosen are eating snacks high in sugar and drinking beverages high in caffeine. In fact, research shows these two choices may result in the opposite effects as those desired.

Eating a sweet snack, like a candy bar, does not provide the body more energy. Most candy bars have little nutritional value; however, their high sugar content can create a full feeling in the consumer. While the sugar may produce an initial boost in energy, the lack of nutritional value soon leaves the body feeling fatigued. In effect, eating a sweet snack will have the opposite effect to what most people expect.

Likewise, many people will drink a caffeinated beverage like coffee or cola to give themselves more energy. To a certain extent, drinking coffee or cola will give a person some energy. The caffeine can increase the heart rate and blood flow, thus producing a feeling of increased energy. Unfortunately, caffeine products are often consumed in excessive amounts or at unwise times. This, in turn, can interfere with normal sleep patterns and also lead to fatigue. In the end, caffeine drinkers often lose valuable hours of sleep and become even more tired during the day. Directions : Select the appropriate phrases from the passage and write them under the type of food which they describe . Include a title for each category in the table .

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