

Reading Comprehension Pretest

Grade: 5

Name: _____

Read each passage. Follow all instructions carefully.

Passage 1:

Making Perfume

Lin loved lots of smells. She loved the smell of flowers. She loved the forest smell of pine needles. She loved the smell of oranges and lemons.

Lin wondered how people made perfumes. How did they get smells out of things in nature? Her mother took her to a perfume factory to see. A tour guide told them lots of things about perfumes.

The guide said that perfumes are made from oils. The oil once all came from nature. They came from flowers, leaves, fruits, roots, and seeds. Oils from these sources are still used. But scientists can now make many of the same smells in their labs. They also make new smells that are not in nature.

Lin watched people getting oils out of things. Some people squeezed them out. Some people boiled them out. Some people were putting flower petals on big, flat trays. They covered the petals with pork fat. The fat would pull out the sweet smells.

The guide said that as many as 300 different smells can go into one perfume. People who make perfumes must have a good sense of smell. They must know how to put different kinds of smells together.

Lin thought about her sense of smell. How good was it? She wondered if some day she might make perfumes.

Answer the following questions by placing an "X" next to the correct answer

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Having a good sense of smell is important. _____
 - b. Always do what you love to do. _____
 - c. There are many ways to make perfume. _____
 - d. Always visit factories with an adult. _____

2. Where did the story take place?

- a. in Lin's room _____
- b. in a Perfume Factory _____
- c. in John Bull _____
- d. at Lin's home _____

Read each question and answer in complete sentences.

3. Why was Lin interested in perfume?

4. List three ways in which people get oils for perfumes?

5. What is one skill that people who make perfumes must have?

Passage 2:

ANIMALS FOUND ON THE BEACH

Seagulls live on the beach. They eat small fish, bread, and seaweed. Seagulls run quickly on the sand and fly quickly in the sky. Seagulls will run or fly away if you try to catch them. There are many seagulls on the beach.

Crabs also live on the beach. They eat shrimp, ocean plants, and small fish. Crabs crawl quickly on the sand and in the ocean. Crabs will crawl away if you try to catch them. There are many crabs on the beach, but it is not always easy to see them. Starfish live on the beach, too. They eat clams, oysters, and small fish. Starfish move slowly on the sand and in the ocean. Starfish will not move away if you try to catch them. There are a few starfish on the beach.

Choose the correct answer by placing the correct LETTER on the line.

1. Seagulls, crabs, and starfish all eat _____

- A. clams
- B. bread
- C. fish

2. _____ moves sluggishly?

- A. seagulls
- B. crabs
- C. Starfish

3. Based on the information in the passage, which sentence is **false**? _____

- A. Starfish are hard to catch.
- B. Crabs eat shrimp and ocean plants
- C. Seagulls move quickly on the sand and in the air.

4. The passage does not talk about _____.

- A. what starfish eat
- B. how crabs catch food
- C. how fast beach animals move

5. According to the passage, seagulls _____.

- i. live on the beach
- ii. move quickly in the ocean
- iii. eat bread only

A. i only B. i and ii only C. i, ii, and iii

6. Based on the information in the passage, which animal would you be most likely to see at the beach? _____ (2pts.)

A. crabs B. seagulls C. starfish

Passage 3

FIRE SAFETY

A fire needs oxygen or air to burn. You can easily smother a small fire with a blanket or a fire extinguisher. Larger fires can't be easily put out. To be safe, you need an escape plan. You and your family should plan at least two escape routes from each room in your home. You should also identify a place outside to meet.

If you are trapped by a fire, open a window and shout for help. Avoid breaking the window; you may need to close it if the smoke starts to come in from the outdoors. If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll or wrap yourself in a wet blanket. These actions will help smother the flames. Never run. The rush of air will fan the flames.

Adapted from Reading Comprehension - Skills Book 5

1. What must be absent in order for a fire to die?

2. (a) Should a person on fire run around? Yes or No. _____

(b) Support your answer with evidence from the passage. (1pt.)

3. If a person is on fire, what TWO things can he/she do to try and put it out?

4. Read each statement below.

Write 'T' if the statement is True. Write 'F' if the statement is False.

To smother a fire is to cut off its oxygen.

When a flame is fanned it burns more.

An escape plan will prevent a fire.

You should smash a window to escape a fire.