DAILY Warm-Up 6

Name _____ Date _____

TARANTULAS

There are at least 800 species of tarantulas. The most common types of tarantulas are found in the southwestern United States and Mexico. The legs of the tarantula get as long as three to four inches. The body gets to be about two inches long.

Tarantulas are the biggest known spiders. There are some species of tarantulas that can span 10 inches. They weigh from one to three ounces. The tarantula lives from 25 to 40 years. Most tarantulas are black and brown, but some species come in very striking colors, such as bright red and blue. Tarantulas can be trained as pets and are harmless to humans. They do not spin webs but rather hunt for their prey.

The tarantula has eight hairy legs and a hairy body. There is a bald spot on the abdomen. When being pursued by an enemy, the tarantula will rub its legs on the abdomen brushing hairs off in the direction of the enemy. These hairs are irritating to the enemy. The tarantula can make a hissing sound by rubbing its jaws or front legs together. This spider has eight eyes, as well as two large fangs.

The typical diet of a tarantula is insects. It feeds specifically on grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, sow bugs, other spiders, and even small lizards. It is a nocturnal animal that lives in small burrows. The tarantula lines this hole with silk webbing to prevent the dust from getting inside.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where would you read to determine the color of the tarantula?
   a. first paragraph
   b. second paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. the title
2. What does the tarantula throw at its predators for protection?
   a. claw-like arms
   b. poison
   c. hair
   d. strong scent
3. The author probably wrote this passage to . . .
   a. warn humans of the tarantula.
   b. enlighten scientists to the benefits of the tarantula.
   c. to determine the genealogy of the tarantula.
   d. inform the reader about the tarantula.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 7

Name _____ Date _____

THE PEACOCK

The peacock is known as a beautiful bird that fans its feathers in colorful display. Did you know that the male peacock is the only one with these beautiful feathers? The female peahen has very dull colored feathers such as dull green, brown, and gray. The male is known as the peacock and the female is known as the peahen. Both males and females are commonly called peacocks.

The peacock is omnivorous, which means that it eats both plants and animals. Peacocks typically consume plant parts, seeds, and flower petals. They also eat small reptiles, small snakes, arthropods, and amphibians. The peacock has spurs on its feet that help protect it from predators.

The feathers on the "tail" of the male peacock are iridescent blue-green and green. It is striking to see the full plumage of the male peacock. When not in use, the train of the peacock trails on the ground behind the body. The peacock displays its feathers when it is startled or in danger.

The peacock is native to India and Sri Lanka. It builds a shallow nest made of sticks, leaves, and branches. These nests are often found in the undergrowth. The peahen will lay anywhere from one to four eggs. These beautiful birds do not migrate.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can you infer about the peacock after reading this passage?
   a. Peacocks are shy animals.
   b. Peacocks can reach speeds up to 35 mph.
   c. Peacocks keep moving, as they are nomadic animals.
   d. Peacocks are worth looking at when at a zoo.
2. Which of the following can be verified after reading the passage?
   a. The peacock can run very quickly.
   b. The peacock is an extinct animal.
   c. The peacock engages in social activity.
   d. The peacock is an interesting animal and has an interesting history.
3. Peacocks are native to which of the following places?
   a. farms and ranches
   b. zoos and animal parks
   c. India and Sri Lanka
   d. none of the above

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

LEOPARDS

Leopards are wild cats that live in many different places throughout the world. Leopards are found living in the rainforests, woodlands, plains, and deserts. Leopards live in China, India, Africa, Siberia, as well as Southeast Asia. Leopards are a threatened species because they are hunted, they do not have enough food, and because their habitats are being destroyed.

An adult leopard can weigh from 65 to almost 180 pounds. They are long and lean wild cats. The female leopard is smaller than the male leopard. The tail of a leopard is long and can get up to three feet long.

When a leopard cub is born, it is the color gray. As the leopard grows, its fur will become darker. Some leopards have dark rosettes on a background. This makes them look black. These are called black leopards. On other leopards, there are dark rosettes but a lighter background.

Leopards are nocturnal animals, which means they typically hunt at night. They are also carnivores, which mean they eat meat. They hunt mammals, reptiles, fish, and birds. The leopard will also eat carrion. These are opportunistic animals that actively hunt their prey.

The leopard is capable of running as fast as 40 miles per hour for brief periods. It is also an adept swimmer. The leopard is very agile and can jump up to 20 feet long horizontally or 10 feet high vertically. The leopard is very powerful and has strong limbs with a heavy torso and thick neck.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Based on the information in the passage, what can be inferred about the leopard?
   a. The leopard is an extinct animal.
   b. The diet of the leopard is being extinguished.
   c. The leopard is a very strong animal.
   d. The leopard enjoys fighting humans.

2. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
   a. to introduce the main points of a leopard
   b. to clear up misconceptions about the leopard
   c. to generate questions about the leopard
   d. to identify the habitat of the leopard

3. A good way to find the answer to the question just above this one is to . . .
   a. reread the entire passage.
   b. reread the first paragraph and determine the main idea.
   c. look for the words "leopard" and "habitat."
   d. skim the passage and look for clues.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 9

Name _____ Date _____

THE ANT COLONY

Have you ever been on a picnic that was interrupted by ants? Ants are insects. The parts of an ant include the head, thorax, abdomen, antennae, and six legs. There are thousands of species of ants, and they are found living all over the world. Did you know that there is a science of studying ants that is called myrmecology?

Ants are social animals. That means they live and work together in groups. Each group of ants is called a colony. Each ant that lives in the colony has a specific role to play. There are four main roles in the ant colony. The first is the queen. The queen ant will mate with male ants and then fly to set up her colony. Once she has arrived at her nesting place, she will lose her wings and spend the rest of her life laying eggs.

The male ants have wings. They use these wings to fly and mate with the queen. Once the male ant has mated, it will die. The worker ants are non-reproducing female ants. These ants collect food and feed members of the colony. They are also responsible for defending the colony. If you see a group of ants, most of these are worker ants.

The last group of ants is called soldier ants. They are also non-reproducing ants that are bigger in size. Their main job is to defend the colony and to raid and attack other colonies.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where would you read to find out the role of the worker ant?
   a. end of the first paragraph
   b. middle of the second paragraph
   c. in the third paragraph
   d. from the title
2. What is the meaning of the word *social* as used in this passage?
   a. claw-like
   b. has wings
   c. communal
   d. has a strong scent
3. The writer probably wrote this passage to . . .
   a. warn humans of the ant.
   b. enlighten farmers to the benefits of the ant.
   c. to determine the genealogy of the ant.
   d. inform the reader about the ant colony.
4. Which of these is <u>not</u> a fact about the ant?
   a. The ant is a meat-eating insect.
   b. The ant lives in a colony.
   c. The male ant has wings.
   d. The ant is on average a small insect.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 10

Name _____ Date _____

BATS

Did you know that the bat is the only flying mammal? Just like other mammals, bats give birth to live young and nourish them with milk. Another unusual fact about the bat is that it lives most of its life upside down. Most species of bats are nocturnal, which means they are active at night. A misconception about bats is that they suck blood. In actuality, there are only a few bats that feed on animals this way. Most bat species are harmless.

There are at least 900 different species of bats. Bats can be found all over the world except in the two polar regions. During the winter, many bats migrate to warmer areas. Other bats hibernate through the winter.

There are two main types of diets for bats. Some bats send out high-pitched sounds to locate insects and small animals to eat. This technique is known as echolocation. Other bats use their sense of smell to locate and eat fruit and nectar.

The bat's wings are made up of long fingers covered in skin. The bat has a furry body and no tail. It has weak legs and doesn't walk very well. Its main form of movement is flying. Bats "roost" in caves hanging upside down. The roost is generally located in a very high place. This along with the hanging upside down allows the bat to leave quickly at a moment's notice. Unlike a bird, a bat cannot launch itself from the ground.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the skin covering the bat's fingers?
   a. to stabilize the bat from falling over
   b. to identify the difference between bat species
   c. to help the bat protect itself
   d. to aid the bat in flying
2. Identify a supporting detail that explains the statement, "The roost is generally located in a very high place."
   a. This technique is known as echolocation.
   b. Unlike a bird, a bat cannot launch itself from the ground.
   c. Other bats use their sense of smell to locate and eat fruit and nectar.
   d. During the winter, many bats migrate to warmer areas.
3. After reading the passage, which question could you answer about the bat?
   a. How does the bat protect itself?
   b. How many different species of bats are there?
   c. How does the bat get its color?
   d. When do bats learn to fly?

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