Name _____ Number Right _____ **11**

Directions: *You have 4¼ minutes to read the selection and answer the questions. Do not begin reading until your teacher gives the signal.*

Fast and Tall

The giraffe has long, thin legs and is extremely tall, the tallest of all animals. His long neck makes it possible for him to see over the treetops and avoid enemies.

The markings on a giraffe's body help him to hide among the trees. He blends right in with the leaves. Sometimes he can even be mistaken for a tree.

In spite of these advantages, the giraffe has a few problems. One is getting a drink. He does not kneel down by a stream but spreads his front legs apart to reach the water. In this position, he is not ready to run in case of danger. Fortunately he can go without water for several days at a time when necessary. He always looks around carefully before he takes a drink to be sure there are no enemies nearby to pounce on him.

Lions and leopards are his enemies. His greatest defense against enemies is speed. With his long legs he can usually outrun them. When this is impossible, he strikes them with his powerful legs. Sometimes he can even kill a lion with the swift kicks of his hind legs!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the correct answer.

1. Giraffes are known for their ___?___.
   - **a.** weight
   - **b.** friendliness
   - **c.** height
   - **d.** coloring

2. The markings of the giraffe help him ___?___.
   - **a.** to gallop
   - **b.** to hide among the leaves
   - **c.** to frighten his enemies
   - **d.** to get a drink

3. The long neck of the giraffe enables him to ___?___.
   - **a.** see long distances
   - **b.** drink from streams
   - **c.** run long distances
   - **d.** frighten his enemies

4. The giraffe is in a dangerous position when he ___?___.
   - **a.** has his head up in the trees and can't see what's happening below
   - **b.** lies down to sleep
   - **c.** is alone
   - **d.** spreads his legs apart so that he can get a drink

5. When it's necessary to fight, the giraffe ___?___.
   - **a.** uses his neck
   - **b.** bites
   - **c.** kicks with his legs
   - **d.** swishes his tail

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