DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

DESERT LIFE

Living in the desert usually means extreme heat and dry, arid conditions. There are different types of deserts. Some deserts have more plant life than other deserts. The largest desert in the world is the Sahara Desert. This desert covers over a million square miles of land.

Like all deserts, the Sahara has very little vegetation. However, there are some plants that have learned to grow without very much rain. Cacti are examples of plants that can live for almost a year without rain. When a cactus does receive rain, it produces beautiful and striking flowers.

Many of the animals that live in the desert are the same color as the environment. These sand-colored animals often burrow into the sand to avoid the extreme heat. Many of these animals are nocturnal animals, which means they feed and are active mostly during the night. When there is a severe drought, many of these animals sleep to save water and their need for food.

Camels are another type of animal commonly found in the Sahara Desert. The camel is able to go for a week without any drinking water. The camel's hump serves as food storage. A camel will drink up to 16 gallons of water at one time.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why are desert animals nocturnal?
   a. The sun is too bright during the day.
   b. They are trying to avoid the extreme heat.
   c. The water comes at night.
   d. They are able to move faster.
2. According to the passage, why are camels good animals for working in the desert?
   a. There is no specific reason listed.
   b. They work together to help each other in extremely hot conditions.
   c. They are able to store food and water and go without water for a long time.
   d. They have always been used in the desert.
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
   a. to show how camels store food and water
   b. to list the types of animals found in the desert
   c. to explain what plant life and animal life is like in the desert
   d. to show how cacti can survive a drought
4. What do animals that live in the desert have in common?
   a. They are all reptiles.
   b. They are all nocturnal animals.
   c. They have learned to adapt to the heat.
   d. They are brightly-colored animals.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 12

Name _____ Date _____

PLUTO

Pluto is the planet that is usually the farthest from our sun in our solar system. A scientist named Clyde W. Tombaugh accidentally discovered Pluto in 1930. Clyde was working at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. He did a very thorough search of the night sky and realized there was another planet in the solar system. Some people feel that Pluto is more like a comet or an asteroid than a planet.

Pluto is the only planet that has not been visited by any spacecraft. There is a planned mission scheduled to take place in 2006. Pluto is very far away from the Earth. It will take many years to get close to Pluto. Due to the irregularity of Pluto's orbit, it is closer than Neptune for 20 years out of its 249 year orbit. This means that sometimes Neptune is the farthest planet from the sun, yet at most other times, Pluto is.

Pluto is also by far the smallest planet in our solar system. Pluto is smaller than most of the moons in the solar system. Pluto is named after the god of the Underworld. Little is known about Pluto's atmosphere. It is known that it is mostly made up of nitrogen with a little carbon monoxide and methane. Pluto can be seen with a telescope, but it is not easy. Pluto has one known satellite, which is called Charon.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A likely reason people may think Pluto is an asteroid or comet is because . . .
   a. of the way it is positioned on a sky map.
   b. it has a powerful orbit.
   c. it rotates in a predictable pattern.
   d. it is so small.
2. Other words that can be used in place of *accidentally* are . . .
   a. by protection.
   b. by mistake.
   c. by structure.
   d. by formation.
3. If you wanted to study about the orbit of Pluto, would this passage be helpful?
   a. Yes, it is very helpful.
   b. No, there is not enough information.
   c. Yes, it provides a little information on that topic.
   d. No, it is not reliable information.
4. Pluto has one satellite named . . .
   a. Neptune.
   b. Io.
   c. Charon.
   d. Charlie.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 13

Name _____ Date _____

ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP

It is an exhilarating feeling to stand at the top of a mountain and look down. There are amazing views. You can tell by looking at a mountain which plants can grow at different heights. The higher you go up the mountain, the colder it is. For every 820 feet you climb, the temperature drops one degree. If you look at the very top of a high mountain, there is usually no or very little vegetation or plants there. Icy wind blows and prevents trees from growing. When mountains get higher than 8,200 feet, there is a timberline. Trees cannot grow above the timberline.

The trees along the mountainside help to protect the mountain soil. This prevents the mountain soil from eroding. When there is too much erosion, there are problems with flooding and landslides. In the wintertime, these cleared-off areas can trigger avalanches.

It is very common to see conifer trees growing on mountains. Most conifers are called evergreens, which means they stay green all of the time. They do not lose their leaves like other trees. The leaves on evergreens are needles. When old needles fall off, they are replaced with new ones. Conifers are able to handle the harsh weather conditions of the mountains. They can survive the cold and the elements.

There are also other types of trees that grow on mountains. In lower portions of the mountain, you can find chestnut, oak, and maple trees.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is this passage mainly about?
   a. how tall mountains can get
   b. how trees grow below the timberline
   c. how conifer trees lose their needles and then replace them
   d. the different types of trees that can grow on mountains
2. Why does the temperature get cooler the higher you go up the mountain?
   a. The temperature drops as air pressure rises.
   b. The temperature drops because there are no trees.
   c. The temperature drops because of the higher elevation.
   d. The temperature drops because conifer trees can't grow above the timberline.
3. According to the passage, what are the two main factors that create harsh conditions?
   a. snow and hail
   b. sleet and snow
   c. wind and cold temperatures
   d. cold temperatures and hail

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 14

Name _____ Date _____

ACIDS AND BASES

Have you ever heard the terms *acid* and *base*? Acids and bases play important roles in your life. Acids and bases can be found in just about everything. Almost every liquid you see is either an acid or a base. The only liquid that is not an acid or a base is distilled water.

An acid has more hydrogen ions. The word *acid* comes from the Latin word *acidus*, which means "sharp." Acids usually have a sour taste. Examples of acids are lemon juice and vinegar. Most citrus fruits have a lot of acids, as do teas and yogurt. Not all acids can be eaten. Some of them can be very harmful. Some acids can burn holes in clothing or skin. These strong acids are used to produce dyes, plastic, fertilizers, and more.

A base is a bitter-tasting chemical. Egg whites and ammonia are bases. Soap is also made from a base. Did you know that your blood is a base? There are many bases that can be eaten, but there are many that are very dangerous to touch, taste, or smell.

Acids and bases are opposites. So when you mix them together, they can neutralize each other. Mixing them together takes a bit of potency away and makes them weaker. When there is too much of an acid, a base will be added to counteract the acidity. Gardeners are constantly working to get the right balance in the soil. If there is too much acid, plants won't grow.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements is true?
   a. Acids and bases are both dangerous to your body.
   b. Bases are the weakened form of acids.
   c. Acids and bases should never be mixed together.
   d. Acids and bases can be found in just about everything.
2. Which sentence from the passage supports the previous statement?
   a. The only liquid that is not an acid or a base is distilled water.
   b. Almost every liquid you see is either an acid or a base.
   c. Most citrus fruits have a lot of acids, as do teas and yogurt.
   d. These strong acids are used to produce dyes, plastic, fertilizers, and more.
3. Which question could be answered after reading this passage?
   a. What are some examples of acids and bases?
   b. Does a banana have acids in it?
   c. How do I neutralize the acids and bases in the food I eat?
   d. What is the pH scale?
4. What is the meaning of word *potency* in this passage?
   a. influence
   b. strength
   c. speed
   d. understood

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 15

Name _____ Date _____

CRICKET TEMPERATURE

Have you ever listened to the chirping of the crickets on a summer evening? Did you know that the cricket's chirp can help you determine the temperature outside?

Crickets are black or brownish insects. They are cold-blooded, which means their body temperature is the same as the temperature of their surroundings. If the temperature outside is warm, then the cricket's body temperature is warm.

During the hot summer months, the crickets are more active. You can hear them chirping or "singing." This noise is made when the cricket rubs the bases of its back legs together. The hotter it is, the faster the cricket will rub its legs together.

You can figure out the temperature outside by following a simple formula using the chirps of the cricket. First, you count the number of cricket chirps per minute. You divide that number by the number four. Then you add that number to 40. Surprisingly enough, the answer you get is pretty close to the actual temperature outside. It is usually only one or two degrees off. Try it sometime!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why does the author say, "Surprisingly enough, the answer you get is pretty close to the actual temperature outside"?
   a. Because it seems too easy to figure out the temperature that way.
   b. Because it seems to be a very precise formula.
   c. Because it doesn't seem like it would be a very accurate way to determine the temperature.
   d. Because it does not seem very probable that the cricket chirp will be predictable.
2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
   a. to explain the cricket and how its body adjusts to temperature
   b. to explain how the cricket makes the chirping noise
   c. to explain how to determine the temperature using the cricket chirps
   d. to explain why the cricket chirps only in the summer months
3. What is the meaning of the term "singing" in the third paragraph?
   a. smaller or lesser
   b. disconcerting
   c. bothering
   d. tweeting
4. Crickets are more active in the . . .
   a. outdoors.
   b. kitchen.
   c. cooler months.
   d. warmer months.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

PG-13 MOVIES

Have you been to the movies lately? You have probably noticed that each movie has a rating. The ratings are meant to be guidelines for viewers, to explain levels of violence, language, and other characteristics of movies. The rating system was set up to prevent children from being exposed to inappropriate or intensive scenes or story lines. It seems that these days the rating is used to entice movie fans to go to a movie, as opposed to avoiding a movie.

Adding the PG-13 rating has allowed movie producers to avoid the strict standards of the ratings system. It seems that if a movie wanted to add more violence or bad language but not get the R rating, movie producers would go for the PG-13 rating. Exactly what is the difference between the R rating and the PG-13 rating? As far as I can see, there isn't one.

At one time, the R rating meant that it was not appropriate for children under a certain age. In fact, they were not allowed into the theater without an adult. Now, not only can children go to the movie without an adult, but also movie producers change the rating to PG-13 so that more kids can attend. By using the PG-13 rating, just about anything goes. When will movie executives and producers be held to a high standard again? Kids are seeing worse things on the big screen than they've ever seen before. What's next: a PG-8 rating?

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is a reason presented in this passage as to why children should not be allowed to watch PG-13 movies?
   a. PG-13 movies are produced with higher budgets than R movies.
   b. Movie producers are allowed to add more violence and language with the PG-13 rating than an R rating.
   c. Many PG-13 movies have high levels of violence and bad language.
   d. The rating system was set up to prevent children from seeing anything inappropriate.
2. Which of the following statements would the author of this passage most likely make?
   a. Children need to be taught how to decipher the ratings system on movies.
   b. Parents should hold movie theaters accountable for letting their children in movies.
   c. Movie producers should be held to higher standards when they are given a rating for their movies.
   d. PG-13 movies should not be allowed.
3. What is the meaning of the word *intensive* as used in this passage?
   a. strenuous
   b. deceased
   c. concerned
   d. graphic

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

SIXTH GRADE EDUCATION

What type of school do you attend? Is it an elementary school? Is it a middle school? Or is it a junior high? Teachers throughout the country have differing opinions as to where sixth graders should go to school.

Some teachers and parents say that sixth graders should attend school in elementary schools with kindergarten through sixth grade. They feel that sixth graders are too young to go to school with seventh and eighth graders. They feel that sixth graders are still very young and impressionable. They are at a different social and emotional level than junior-highers.

Going to school with older students encourages sixth graders to behave poorly and exposes them to inappropriate behaviors. Some teachers and parents feel that sixth graders have their childhood taken away when they are in the junior high or middle school environment.

Other educators and parents feel that the needs of sixth graders would be met best in the middle school or junior high setting. In this setting, sixth graders can be encouraged and pushed to higher levels. Sixth graders in this setting can participate in school sports, and they can experience a variety of classes. They feel that keeping sixth graders in elementary school keeps them in a self-contained classroom with one teacher. Going to school with younger students keeps the sixth graders immature.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion about where sixth graders should go to school?
   a. The author thinks that sixth graders should attend elementary school.
   b. The author thinks that sixth graders should attend middle school.
   c. The author doesn't know where sixth graders should attend school.
   d. You can't tell the author's opinion from reading the passage.
2. What is the main idea of paragraph two?
   a. to explain how sixth graders adapt socially
   b. to explain the benefits of sixth graders attending elementary school
   c. to explain the benefits of sixth graders attending middle school
   d. to explain the benefits of sixth graders attending junior high school
3. Which of the following is <u>not</u> one of the reasons teachers feel that sixth graders should attend middle school?
   a. Sixth graders do not know how to switch classes.
   b. Sixth graders are too mature for the elementary school setting.
   c. Sixth graders need to be given more opportunities.
   d. Sixth graders need to be pushed to excel at a higher level.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

SKATEBOARD PARK

There are two sides to every issue. Whether to build a skateboard park in the community is an issue that definitely has two sides. There are many people who believe the city should build a skateboard park to accommodate the number of skateboarders in the community.

This group feels that skateboarding is a new and upcoming sport and that city officials should allow skateboarders to enjoy it. The city already provides basketball courts, tennis courts, racquetball courts, and more. Among the many benefits of a skateboard park is that it would keep skateboarders off the cement driveways of banks and other public buildings. The only reason skateboarders skate there is that they have nowhere else to go.

Those with an opposing point of view feel that there should not be a public skateboard park built. The main reasons for the disapproval have to do with safety and security. A skateboard park has a reputation that comes with it. Many kids that skateboard tend to be rowdy kids who don't behave appropriately. Building a skateboard park attracts these kids, and it brings down the surrounding neighborhoods in the area.

Who would supervise the park? Many skateboarders do not wear helmets. Many fights break out at these parks. Who would be there to monitor these activities? The neighbors living nearby certainly don't want to put up with this. Finally, who will pay for the park? Cement costs a lot of money.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which would be the best title for this reading passage?
   a. "Choose Your Own Sports Activity"
   b. "My Community, My Choice"
   c. "Boarders vs. Non-boarders"
   d. "To Build or Not to Build"
2. Which of the following is the main reason to support a skateboard park?
   a. It will allow skateboarders a place to ride their skateboards.
   b. Parents would be more comfortable if their children were skateboarding in a park instead of in a bank driveway.
   c. The skateboarders have a right to ask the community to build them a park.
   d. The skateboarding community would be very happy.
3. What is meant by the word *reputation* as used in this passage?
   a. group restraint
   b. entitlement of a group
   c. good history
   d. belief or expectation about a group

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

FIX THE LIBRARY

Have you been to the school library lately? If you have, you've probably noticed that there is plenty of room for improvement. Something needs to be done to improve the school library.

The government and school leaders are all calling for better readers. They say that kids these days just don't read enough! They say they watch too much television and play too many computer games. Well, if the adults want students to read more, they need to do their part to help the kids read.

When is the last time you spent time in the school library? You've probably noticed that there isn't a very good selection of books. The number of books on the shelf is few, and the books on the shelves are old and outdated. The books have been falling apart for a long time. It is not very fun to read a book that is missing pages or is ripped or has smudge marks on it.

Not only are the books old, but they are also very outdated. There isn't a single book in the library that was written in the last 10 years. There have been so many new authors and new books that are great! Why can't the students in this school have access to these great books? The school has got to put its money where its mouth is. If they want the students to read, give them better reading material!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. People who agree with this passage probably feel that . . .
   a. parents should take more responsibility in getting books for their children.
   b. schools need to adjust their budgets to better fund the library.
   c. schools need to stop talking about the importance of reading.
   d. teachers should receive more training and instruction on how to encourage reading.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
   a. the library can be a great resource for students if it is funded appropriately.
   b. the school needs to have better librarians to teach students how to read.
   c. the principal should have a meeting to discuss how to improve the library.
   d. the library needs to be organized in a better manner.
3. Which statement names one of the ways suggested in the passage to improve libraries?
   a. Why can't the students in this school have access to these great books?
   b. They say that kids these days just don't read enough!
   c. If they want the students to read, give them better reading material!
   d. The number of books on the shelf is few and the books on the shelves are old and outdated.

LIVEWORKSHEETS