DAILY Warm-Up 10

Name _____ Date _____

THE KOALA BEAR

Have you ever seen a cute and cuddly koala bear? These animals look an awful lot like a teddy bear. A full-grown koala bear gets about as big as a yardstick and can weigh up to 20 pounds. A koala bear has a very specific diet. They eat only the leaves from a eucalyptus tree. They eat as much as two-and-a-half pounds of eucalyptus leaves a day. They enjoy the moist and tender tips of these leaves. The koala is able to get enough water and food from the leaves.

The koala bear has large, bushy ears with small, beady eyes. They have a baby-like expression, which makes them look cute to humans. Their four paws are sharp so that they can easily climb trees. They have a thick, soft, gray or brown fur. Koalas are also good swimmers.

A baby koala stays in its mother's pouch for about six months before it learns to feed by itself. Koala bears primarily come from Australia. Many koalas prefer to live on the island on the southeast shore of Australia. Koala bears are becoming endangered because their habitat is being destroyed due to construction. Some are also killed for their skins. The main predators of a baby koala are eagles and owls. Humans and dingoes, Australian wild dogs, also kill them. If a koala spots an enemy, it will scurry up a tree for safety.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In this passage, the word *specific* means . . .
   a. order.
   b. exact.
   c. categorize.
   d. patronize.

2. Which statement is false?
   a. The koala bear carries its baby in a pouch for six months.
   b. The koala bear eats eucalyptus leaves.
   c. The koala bear has to live near a watering hole.
   d. The koala bear has sharp claws.

3. According to the passage, why do koala bears seem so cute to humans?
   a. because of the hair on their ears
   b. because of their black, beady eyes
   c. because of their baby-like expression
   d. because they can scurry quickly up a tree

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

THE RIVER OTTER

What animal has a sleek, furry body and swims in the river? That would be the river otter. The thick, dense fur helps the otter keep warm in the cold water. The river otter is a type of weasel. The river otter can be found in lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, and ponds. They are found predominantly in Canada and the United States. The river otter is an endangered animal because hunters desire their furry skins.

River otters are nocturnal animals, which means they do most of their activities at night. They hunt and fish at night and sleep during the day. River otters live in dens dug under the ground. They usually take over old dens from other animals, such as beavers. The bear, coyote, and the bald eagle are all predators of the river otter.

The river otter is a carnivore, which means that it eats meat. Its diet consists of crustaceans, fish, small mammals, birds, insects, and amphibians. Sea otters have a very strong sense of smell. They also use their whiskers to help them find food. Like sea otters, river otters are also known for their ability to play. They can do somersaults, sliding, wrestling, and even belly flops. They love to slide down a muddy or snowy hill. River otters use their webbed feet to swim around in the water, and they can stay underwater for up to four minutes.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements is <u>not</u> true about the river otter?
   a. The river otter's fur helps it withstand the extreme temperatures of the water.
   b. The webbed feet help the river otter swim in the water.
   c. The river otter lays its eggs along the riverbank.
   d. The river otter uses its whiskers to locate prey.
2. The word *predator* used in this passage means . . .
   a. similar.
   b. hunter.
   c. amicable.
   d. carnivore.
3. Which of the following is <u>not</u> a benefit of thick, dense fur?
   a. It prevents the river otter from getting cold.
   b. It helps the otter move quickly.
   c. It stores food.
   d. It serves as protection.
4. A synonym for *dense* as used in the first paragraph is . . .
   a. heavy.
   b. transparent.
   c. bristle.
   d. endangered.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 12

Name _____ Date _____

THE COTTONTAIL RABBIT

The cottontail rabbit gets its name because its tail looks like a ball of cotton. The color of the cottontail rabbit is reddish brown with a white tail. The adult grows to be about 12 to 18 inches long and weighs anywhere from two to four pounds. The cottontail rabbit likes to live in the brush in order to hide. It makes its home in a burrow near prickly bushes. This rabbit is unaffected by the prickly bushes, but living near these prickly bushes deters some predators from attacking the rabbit. Coyotes, red foxes, hawks, and owls are all predators of the cottontail rabbit.

A cottontail will have multiple litters of babies each year. It is not uncommon for a rabbit to have many babies. The babies are born without fur and they cannot see. After about a week, the fur begins to grow in. The mother rabbit builds a nest out of grass, fur, and hay to keep the babies warm.

This rabbit is an herbivore, eating grass, bark, berries, twigs, and just about anything that is green. If a cottontail is lucky enough to come across a farmer's garden, it will eat just about any vegetables growing. They especially like carrots, potatoes, and tomatoes.

Famous stories have been written about cottontail rabbits. Perhaps you've heard one about Peter and his sisters Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. When do you think a cottontail rabbit would leave its home in the brush?
   a. to seek food
   b. to seek safety
   c. to chase away its enemy
   d. to seek protection
2. Which of the following statements is true?
   a. The cottontail rabbit does not jump very well.
   b. The cottontail rabbit is a carnivore.
   c. Most of the animals that eat rabbit eat the red fox, as well.
   d. Cottontail rabbits have a tail like a ball of cotton.
3. In this passage, the word *unaffected* means . . .
   a. unchanged.
   b. unharmed.
   c. killed instantly.
   d. unchallenged.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 13

Name _____ Date _____

THE RED FOX

The red fox is a rusty red color with a whitish color on the belly. This animal is about the same size as a dog. The ears on a red fox are prominent, which make it look much different than a dog. The tail is bushy with a white tip. Other color varieties of the red fox also occur, including black, silver, and a cross phase in which a dark area crosses over the shoulders and down the middle of the back. The red fox prefers to roam where there is a marsh and field or along the edge of the forest. It can also be found on farmland, prairies, and in woodlands. The red fox thrives in British Columbia.

The red fox has a great sense of smell, hearing, and sight. This makes it a great predator. It can track and catch prey quickly and easily. The fox is an omnivore, which means it eats both meat and plants. The fox feeds on berries, grasses, apples, birds, small animals, insects, and corn. The enemies of the red fox are the coyote, the lynx, and humans. Humans are sometimes quick to kill a fox if it is seen on their property.

The red fox grows to be about three-and-a-half feet long and weighs between 10 and 15 pounds. It has long legs and it has a body built for speed. It has a long nose, erect ears, and narrow eyes. The red fox is most active at night. It may spend more time awake during the day in the winter because food is scarce then.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A likely reason people might think the red fox is cunning and crafty is because of its . . .
   a. ability to run fast.
   b. big size.
   c. smell.
   d. look.
2. Another word for *prey* is . . .
   a. prayer.
   b. characteristic.
   c. victim.
   d. diet.
3. Which of the following would be the most accurate description of the red fox's diet?
   a. vegetables and corn
   b. berries, grasses, apples, birds, small animals, insects, and corn
   c. small animals, insects, and corn
   d. berries, grasses, apples, birds, coyotes, insects, and corn
4. The red fox has keen senses of . . .
   a. taste, smell, and hearing.
   b. hearing, sight, and touch.
   c. sight, hearing, and smell.
   d. smell, sight, and taste.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 14

Name _____ Date _____

THE CRAB SPIDER

The crab spider is an interesting spider. It matches the color of the flower it lives on. This helps it stay camouflaged and hide from other insects. It takes this spider three days to change colors to match its environment. The crab spider pounces on any unsuspecting insects as soon as they land on the flower it's on. The spider bites the insects with its fangs and paralyzes them. The crab spider sucks up all the body fluids and leaves an empty husk.

Crab spiders do not spin webs. They spin fluffy silk cocoons to protect their eggs. The female spider can lay up to 20 to 30 eggs at a time. The spiderlings climb out of the cocoon after they shed their skin. Crab spiders live for one year.

The crab spider's body is divided into two parts with a narrow waist in the middle. The front legs are longer and thicker than the other legs so that they can hold their prey. They have a huge abdomen with simple black eyes that don't see very well. The spider gets its name because it walks sideways like a crab. This spider spends most of its time crouched in tree trunks, flowers, or leaves.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did the crab spider get its name?
   a. from its spotted back
   b. from the sound it makes
   c. from the way it walks
   d. from the manner in which it eats
2. What is the meaning of the word *pounced* as used in this passage?
   a. swooped
   b. leaped
   c. jumped
   d. attacked suddenly
3. How is the crab spider different from other spiders?
   a. It fights gravity.
   b. It emits a powerful force on its prey.
   c. It emits an odor in defense.
   d. It lives on a flower instead of a web.
4. Which of the following statements about the crab spider is true?
   a. The crab spider eats other spiders.
   b. The crab spider takes three days to change color.
   c. The crab spider spins a very sticky web.
   d. The body of the crab spider is divided into three parts.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 15 Name _____ Date _____

HARVEST MICE

Harvest mice are graceful animals. They climb from one plant to another with great ease. Each resembles a monkey swinging on the branches of a tree through the forest. These mice scamper through the forest looking for food. They feed on seeds and insects. They have to eat a lot of food in the summertime so that they can store enough food energy as fat for the winter months. This is necessary so they can stay in shelter from the cold. In the winter, the harvest mouse leaves the nest only during the warmest hours of the day.

The harvest mouse has a very long tail. The tail is helpful and works a lot like another hand or foot. It grabs onto the grass and supports the mouse. It also helps the mouse hang upside down and balance itself when it climbs upwards.

Harvest mice are some of the smallest mice in the world. An adult male harvest mouse weighs less than one-third of an ounce and measures no more than six inches—and that includes the tail! Harvest mice make a shrieking sound, and some of their noises are too high-pitched for humans to hear. These shrieks are usually a sign of distress.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why does the author say that harvest mice are graceful animals?
   a. Harvest mice make a shrieking sound.
   b. The harvest mouse has a very long tail.
   c. They climb from one plant to another with ease.
   d. They have to eat a lot of food in the summertime.
2. What is the topic of the second paragraph?
   a. the diet of the harvest mouse
   b. the enemies of the harvest mouse
   c. the color of the harvest mouse
   d. the tail of the harvest mouse
3. What is the meaning of the word *scamper* as used in the first paragraph?
   a. settle
   b. jump
   c. retrieve
   d. scurry
4. Which paragraph explains the noises a harvest mouse makes?
   a. first
   b. second
   c. third
   d. not in the passage

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 16

Name _____ Date _____

THE SEA ANEMONE

The sea anemone is closely related to the coral and the jellyfish. It looks a lot like a flower called the anemone, which is how it got its name. The animal's body has a plant-like appearance. It comes in a variety of colors, including red, blue, pink, and green. The sea anemone is an invertebrate, which means it has no skeleton. This sea animal attaches itself to rocks, the sea floor, coral, or other firm objects.

The sea anemone is a predatory animal that stings its prey with its tentacles. This paralyzes the victim, and the sea anemone then pushes the animal into the mouth. The sea anemone eats small fish, worms, mussels, and zooplankton. Very few animals eat the sea anemone. The great sea slug is one of its predators.

The sea anemone can grow up to 10 inches wide. It has a long, hollow tube. It likes to live in dark places and in warm waters. The sea anemone has an interesting relationship with other sea animals. The hermit crab places the sea anemone on top of its shell to use it as camouflage. The clown fish lives amongst the sea anemone for protection. The clown fish is not affected by the sea anemone's stinging tentacles. For most fish, though, avoiding the sea anemone is the best option.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be a good title for this reading passage?
   a. "The Sea Anemone's Diet"
   b. "The Anemone's Habitat"
   c. "Interesting Facts and Details about the Sea Anemone"
   d. "Indigenous Animals of the Sea"
2. Which paragraph explains the eating habits of the sea anemone?
   a. first
   b. second
   c. third
   d. not mentioned in passage
3. Locate the statement below that is a fact.
   a. The sea anemone is a colorful ocean plant.
   b. The sea anemone is a nocturnal animal.
   c. The sea anemone has short legs.
   d. The sea anemone attaches itself to rocks and other firm surfaces.
4. In this passage, the word *predatory* means . . .
   a. prays often.
   b. using one's nose to locate things.
   c. digging in the ocean floor.
   d. killing for food.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

ANNE SULLIVAN

Anne Sullivan was born on April 14, 1866, in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts. She was born to Irish immigrant farmers. She had one brother, Jimmie, who was crippled from tuberculosis. Anne's family was extremely poor, and her father was an alcoholic and abusive. When she was five years old, Anne got a serious eye infection that left her almost completely blind. Her mother died two years later, and her father put both of the children in an orphanage. Her brother died shortly after being placed in the orphanage.

When the head of the orphanage came to visit, Anne pleaded and begged him to let her go to school. She was allowed to go to school, and after a few operations, she regained some of her vision and managed to graduate at the top of her class from the Perkins Institute for the Blind.

Anne began some of her most important work when she was called on to tutor a young blind and deaf girl named Helen Keller. Helen was seven years old and very undisciplined. Anne had to teach her obedience before anything else. A breakthrough finally happened, and Anne was able to teach Helen to read words using Braille and the manual alphabet. Anne helped Helen go on to accomplish great things. Both Anne and Helen were invited to make speeches all over the world. Anne's work had a lasting impact on Helen and others, including both blind and sighted people. She continues to be an inspiration.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the author's feelings about Anne Sullivan?
   a. indifferent
   b. disapproves
   c. unsure
   d. approves
2. Which sentence shows how the author feels about Anne Sullivan?
   a. She managed to graduate at the top of her class from the Perkins Institute.
   b. She continues to be an inspiration.
   c. Despite all of her struggles, Anne worked hard to succeed.
   d. Anne's family was extremely poor and her father was an alcoholic and abusive.
3. Which sentence is not an example of the Anne's accomplishments?
   a. Anne began some of her most important work when she was called on to tutor a young blind and deaf girl named Helen Keller.
   b. Anne had to teach her obedience before anything else.
   c. Anne helped Helen go on to accomplish great things.
   d. Her mother died two years later, and her father put both of the children in an orphanage.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany, in 1879. As a young boy, Einstein lived in Munich and Milan. At the age of five, his father showed him a compass and explained how it worked. Albert was intrigued with the idea that something in "space" made the needle work. At this time, Albert's mother also insisted that he learn to play the violin.

Albert was not considered very bright in school, and some even thought he had dyslexia and other learning problems. Many thought he was very slow. Nonetheless, school would go on to be very important to Albert, and he would go on to become a professor.

He eventually went to school in Switzerland, where he graduated from the Federal Institute of Technology. He then worked in a patent office and on his doctorate degree. He later became a professor of physics. Einstein developed the theory of relativity and received a Nobel Prize in physics in 1921. He became famous throughout the world, which is very unusual for a scientist.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Albert Einstein so successful in his life?
   a. People felt sorry for him and took pity on him.
   b. He did not let what other people thought of him get him down.
   c. He learned to say no when it was most important.
   d. He was able to become famous worldwide.
2. What can you learn about Albert Einstein from reading this passage?
   a. He was curious.
   b. He was very learning disabled.
   c. He was denied U.S. citizenship.
   d. He was placed in an orphanage.
3. Which of the following statements is true, based on information in the passage?
   a. Albert Einstein flunked out of his school.
   b. Albert Einstein refused to play the violin.
   c. Albert Einstein was given the Nobel Prize.
   d. Young scientists began writing letters to Albert Einstein.
4. Which of the following would make a great title for this passage?
   a. "The Theory of Relativity"
   b. "Albert Einstein vs. The Scientific World"
   c. "Einstein's Education"
   d. "A Brief Story of Albert Einstein"

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