DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

JUNE BUGS

Have you ever seen a metallic green bug buzzing around in the summertime? You were probably looking at a June bug. June bugs get their name because they emerge as adults at the beginning of summer. It takes a year for a June bug to complete its full life cycle.

A June bug is an insect with six legs and is usually about 15 to 22 cm long. It has a dull, metallic-green body with wings. Its underside is light brown or black. The June bug is part of the beetle (coleopteran) family. This beetle can be found all over the United States, but it is prominent in the northeastern states. The beetle loves to feed on ripening fruit. They will gather in clusters and eat ripened apples, peaches, pears, or any other fruit. When the beetle is still a grub, it will feed on decaying matter, grass, and other plants. These grubs will also go underground to eat plants such as sweet potatoes and carrots.

In the past, a fun summer activity for many children was to catch June bugs. Children would tie a string to one of the legs and then let the June bug fly around while holding the string. This provided hours of entertainment for children. Some children still participate in this activity today.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to this reading passage, why would someone want to catch a June bug?
   a. They are trying to keep the June bug from eating their plants.
   b. The June bug can bring good luck.
   c. The June bug can provide entertainment.
   d. The June bug likes to live in captivity.
2. This passage is mostly about . . .
   a. protecting your lawn and fruit trees from June bugs.
   b. good extermination practices.
   c. the anatomy of a June bug.
   d. general information about June bugs.
3. According to the passage, what do adult June bugs eat?
   a. They eat seeds and seedlings.
   b. They eat ripening fruit.
   c. They feed on the grass.
   d. They dig underground to eat sweet potatoes and carrots.
4. How did the June bug get its name?
   a. It is named after the famous first lady June Cleveland.
   b. It is a cousin to the ladybug.
   c. It lays its eggs in June.
   d. It is an adult beetle in the summer months.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

THE ARMADILLO

The armadillo is probably one of the most unusual-looking animals. It looks a lot like the dinosaurs that used to walk the Earth. Armadillos can live in many places throughout the United States and other parts of the world, but they are most prominent in the state of Texas.

The armadillo has a very tough shell with bands of very strong tissue. These bands are able to slide over each other, which allows the armadillo to roll up like a ball. This is how the armadillo is able to protect itself. It is like the armadillo is protected by a shield of armor. Most animals are unable to break through this tough skin. An armadillo lives in a burrow that it digs itself. The armadillo has to live in places where the dirt is easy to dig; otherwise, it cannot dig itself a home. They have very strong claws that help them dig.

The armadillo's main diet is insects. They eat ants, termites, beetles, grubs, worms, and other small insects. These animals are also known for their strange behavior. If an armadillo is startled, it will jump into the air. Sometimes it will even jump three feet high! It also makes a squealing sound. Armadillos are interesting animals!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A good title for this reading passage would be . . .
   a. "The Armadillo State."
   b. "Locating an Armadillo."
   c. "The Basics of the Armadillo."
   d. "The Squeal of an Armadillo."

2. After reading the passage, what can you guess is one similarity between an armadillo and an anteater?
   a. They both live in Texas.
   b. They both eat ants.
   c. They both squeal.
   d. They both jump in the air when startled.

3. The author wrote this passage to . . .
   a. justify keeping armadillos in captivity.
   b. inform the reader of how armadillos are mistreated.
   c. share general information about armadillos.
   d. raise awareness of the shrinking armadillo population.

4. If you wanted to find out more about armadillos, you could . . .
   a. read a book about how armadillos dig their burrows.
   b. watch a television program about insects.
   c. meet somebody who lives in Texas.
   d. watch a television program about the different types of armadillo.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

LLAMAS

Do you know what a llama is? Do you know how to say that word? A llama is an interesting animal. In English, the word is pronounced with the 'l' sound at the beginning (*lama*). In Spanish, the word is pronounced with a 'y' sound at the beginning (*yama*). The llama comes from South America. Llamas have been used as pack animals for thousands of years. They are strong and smart animals. They can hike on the toughest trails. The llama is able to carry over 200 pounds and can hike about 12 hours in a day. They are similar to camels and cows, in that they chew their own cud.

A llama can grow to be as big as 400 pounds. The life span of a llama is 15 to 29 years. Llamas come in a variety of colors. They can be brown, gray, black, or white, as well as a combination of colors. Llamas are herd animals and prefer to be with other llamas. Llamas are also known for spitting. They typically spit to show dominance to other llamas. They can see very well, and sometimes they are used to protect baby cows, sheep, or goats.

Llamas do make some noises. They can be heard humming, which sounds a lot like how you sound humming. They may also cluck or make an alarm sound. They use the alarm sound when they feel threatened or afraid. Llamas are also known to roll on the ground to fluff their wool. They prefer to roll in the dirt.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is this passage mainly about?
   a. how the llama eats
   b. predators of the llama
   c. the different types of llama
   d. general facts about the llama

2. In the second paragraph, what does the word *dominance* mean?
   a. supremacy
   b. broken
   c. structured
   d. overcome

3. Llamas are social animals and prefer to . . .
   a. hunt other animals.
   b. protect other animals.
   c. live in groups.
   d. roll on their backs.

4. Based on information in the passage, why are llamas good pack animals?
   a. They stay in groups.
   b. They are black and white.
   c. They are smaller than camels.
   d. They can carry a lot of weight.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

SHARKS

Mention the word *shark* to someone on the beach and you are bound to get a reaction. Sharks have been the most feared predator of the ocean. Sharks are fish. They have been around since the time of dinosaurs. They can be found in oceans all over the world, and they have also been found in some rivers and lakes.

One difference between most other fish and a shark is that most fish have bones and a shark has cartilage. Cartilage is tough, but it is not as strong as bone. Another difference is that the shark is only able to swim forward, while most fish can swim forwards and backwards. Fish also generally have slippery scales, while a shark has rough scales that feel like sandpaper.

There are many different types of shark. In fact, there are about 368 different types. The differences include color, habitat, behavior, and size. Sharks are also known for their very sharp teeth. They do not use their teeth to chew their food. Instead they swallow large chunks of food. They have five rows of teeth. If a tooth is broken, it is replaced by another tooth.

Sharks are carnivores, meaning that they eat meat. Sharks do not normally attack people. It seems like sharks attack people a lot, but the chances of getting stung by a bee or getting hit by lightning are greater. Even so, experts say it is important to keep an eye out for sharks when swimming in the ocean.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Sharks are greatly feared by humans because they . . .
   a. are good swimmers.
   b. are the right size.
   c. are carnivores.
   d. eat only plants.

2. According to the passage, how are sharks different from most other fish?
   a. They do not have scales.
   b. They are camouflaged
   c. They are slow moving.
   d. They are not able to swim backwards.

3. Why did the author include the first paragraph?
   a. to generally introduce sharks
   b. to clear up misconceptions about sharks
   c. to generate questions about sharks
   d. to identify the food eaten by sharks

4. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
   a. reread the entire passage.
   b. reread the first paragraph and determine the main idea.
   c. look for the words *shark* and *habitat*.
   d. reread the fourth paragraph and determine the main idea.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 5

Name _____ Date _____

THE ELEPHANT

Did you know that there are two different types of elephants? There is the African elephant and the Asian elephant. African elephants are the biggest land animals, and Asian elephants are the next biggest. Elephants are very social animals and live in groups. Female elephants head the groups. Only occasionally will a male elephant take charge of a group.

It's hard to imagine, but elephants are very good swimmers. This seems unusual because elephants are such big animals. Elephants can get as big as 10 feet tall and weigh about 6 tons! Male elephants are usually bigger than females. They have gray or brownish wrinkled skin that has almost no hair. Elephants are also known for their big ears. They can hear very well with these ears. These ears also help the elephant cool off.

The elephant breathes through the nostrils at the end of its very long trunk. The trunk is also used to get water and food. The elephant uses its trunk to suck up the water that is then shot into its mouth. The trunk also gathers food and brings it to the mouth. Elephants use their trunks similarly to the way that we use our hands. Elephants are herbivores, eating mostly roots, grasses, leaves, fruit, and tree bark. They use their tusks along with their trunks to get their food.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about elephants?
   a. The author is in favor of elephant control.
   b. The author feels that elephants are interesting animals.
   c. The author is afraid of elephants.
   d. The author sees the need and purpose for more laws on elephant poaching.
2. The second paragraph informs the reader about . . .
   a. the anatomy of the elephant.
   b. the diet of an elephant.
   c. the history of the elephant.
   d. the predator of the elephant.
3. What is the meaning of the word *herbivore*?
   a. meat eater
   b. meat or plant eater
   c. plant eater
   d. none of the above
4. Where might this information about the elephant most likely be found?
   a. in a pamphlet on elephants
   b. in a newspaper article
   c. in a book about carnivores
   d. in a book about animals in Asia

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 6

Name _____ Date _____

THE BOA CONSTRICTOR

The boa constrictor is a large snake living in Central and South America. This large snake lives alone. Some people keep boas in the home to hunt rats. The boa constrictor is an endangered, protected animal.

Boa constrictors are carnivores, which means that they eat meat. They are mostly nocturnal animals, hunting at night. A boa constrictor does not bite its prey; it actually squeezes its prey to death. The boa then swallows its prey whole, usually head first, and lets the food digest inside its stomach. The stomach has very strong acids that digest the food. Boa constrictors have been known to eat small mammals, birds, and other reptiles. Once the boa has eaten, it does not need to eat for a few weeks. It takes that long to digest all the food!

Boa constrictors are cold-blooded animals. This means that they assume approximately the same temperature as their environment. They grow year after year to be one of the biggest snakes. They can get up to 10 feet long and weigh over 60 pounds. They are typically colored brown, black, or tan and come in a variety of patterns.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where in the passage would you find out what the boa constrictor eats?
   a. end of the first paragraph
   b. middle of the third paragraph
   c. end of the second paragraph
   d. the title

2. What does the boa constrictor have that helps it digest its food?
   a. claw-like teeth
   b. wings
   c. strong muscles
   d. stomach acids

3. The writer probably wrote this passage to . . .
   a. warn humans about the boa constrictor.
   b. enlighten farmers to the benefits of boa constrictors.
   c. determine the genealogy of the boa constrictor.
   d. inform the reader about the boa constrictor.

4. Which of the following is <u>not</u> a fact about the boa constrictor?
   a. The boa constrictor can weigh over 60 pounds.
   b. The boa constrictor does not chew its food.
   c. The boa constrictor is green in color.
   d. The boa constrictor can get up to 10 feet long.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 7

Name _____ Date _____

PENGUINS

The penguin is a fascinating bird. There are 17 different kinds of penguin. The penguin spends much of its life in the sea, so it can swim very well. A penguin is one of the few birds that cannot fly. A penguin uses its feathers to keep its skin dry. Its feathers are shiny and waterproof. Penguins continually lose their feathers and grow new ones. Penguins have big heads with short, thick necks. They have web-shaped feet for swimming and flipper-like wings for "gliding" through the water. Their coloring is usually black and white, although there are some brown penguins. Penguins are known for their "tuxedo" look.

The largest of the penguins is called the emperor penguin. This penguin stands at over three-and-a-half feet tall and weighs about 65 pounds. It is hard to tell the difference between male and female penguins because they look so much alike.

All wild penguins are found in the southern hemisphere. They live in climates ranging from warm tropics to very cold and frigid landscapes. Only penguins with a heavy amount of blubber can live in freezing climates. A penguin is not able to defend itself, so it lives in an area that is generally free from predators. Penguins eat fish, squid, and crustaceans.

Penguins are very social animals and have been known to mate with just one penguin during the breeding season. It is the female penguin that competes for a mate's attention.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does the author think of penguins?
   a. The author does not think highly of the penguins.
   b. The author thinks that penguins should not be classified as birds.
   c. The author thinks penguins live in groups.
   d. The author thinks the penguin is an interesting bird.

2. According to the passage, which sentence shows what the author thinks of the penguin?
   a. "Penguins are known for their 'tuxedo' look."
   b. "A penguin is one of the few birds that cannot fly."
   c. "The penguin is a fascinating bird."
   d. "It is hard to tell the difference between male and female penguins."

3. Why would a penguin with little blubber not be found in a freezing climate like Antarctica?
   a. It has too much blubber for such a cold place.
   b. It would get too warm.
   c. All penguins live in warm tropic climates.
   d. It does not have enough blubber to stay warm.

4. The penguin uses its feathers to . . .
   a. fly.
   b. stay warm.
   c. stay dry.
   d. move around.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

ZEBRAS

The zebra is closely related to the donkey and the horse. They look very similar, except for the striking colors of the zebra. The zebra has very distinctive white stripes on a dark background. The dark color can be either black or dark brown. No two zebras have the same stripe pattern. The stripes on the zebra can help the zebra get away from its predators. The stripes make it difficult for the predator to judge distances. The zebra runs very fast, going as fast as 40 mph in no time at all. This quick speed enables the zebra to escape from predators easily.

Zebras live together in groups of up to 17. The stallions, or the males, stand at the back of the group to protect the young and the old zebras from predators. The dominant female leads the group. The zebras roam around looking for food. They are nomads. They eat grasses and stay close to water so that they have a water supply. A zebra can live to be up to 45 years old.

Zebras are most active in the early morning and in the late afternoon. They spend half of their waking hours eating. Zebras are hunted for their striking skins. They are also endangered because more and more of their grazing land is being replaced with farming land.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the stripes on the zebra?
   a. to stabilize the zebra
   b. a characteristic used to identify the difference between zebra species
   c. to help the zebra protect itself
   d. to aid the zebra in gathering food

2. Identify a supporting detail that explains the statement, "The stripes on the zebra can help the zebra get away from its predators."
   a. Zebras are hunted for their striking skins.
   b. The stripes make it difficult for the predator to judge distances.
   c. The zebras live in groups of up to seventeen.
   d. A zebra can live to be up to 45 years old.

3. After reading the passage, which question could you answer about the zebra?
   a. How does the zebra protect itself?
   b. How many different types of zebras are there?
   c. How does the zebra get the stripes on its skin?
   d. How does the mother zebra feed its young?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 9

Name _____ Date _____

THE ANTELOPE

An antelope is a hoofed animal with horns that are hollow. There are many different kinds of antelope. Antelope live in the mountains, deserts, and wetlands and are hunted by lions, hyenas, and other carnivores. They are light, quick-moving animals that can jump very well. Some antelopes can reach speeds as fast as 60 mph. They can bounce on all four legs. This is called *pronking*.

Antelopes feed on grass, desert plants, and young plant shoots. They also eat twigs and leaves. They swallow the food whole and then regurgitate it and chew it. This is called cud. Most antelopes live in Africa but have also been found in Asia and North America. Antelopes come in all different colors and sizes. The horns of antelope can be curved or straight. These horns never fall off and are used to get food.

An antelope has very keen senses. They have big eyes and keen hearing. This helps the antelope stay on constant alert for predators that may be nearby.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following sentences is factual, based on information from the passage?
   a. Antelopes come in a variety of shapes and sizes.
   b. Unfortunately, there are no current laws protecting the antelope.
   c. The antelope has such an interesting coat.
   d. The tails of an antelope help them run fast.

2. According to this passage, antelopes are . . .
   a. carnivores.
   b. herbivores.
   c. both carnivores and herbivores.
   d. none of the above.

3. You can conclude that an antelope would probably do well living in all of these places *except* the . . .
   a. desert.
   b. mountain ranges.
   c. ocean.
   d. Everglades.

4. Where might this information about the antelope be found?
   a. in a fashion magazine
   b. in a newspaper article
   c. in a book about herbivores
   d. in a book about animals in Australia

LIVEWORKSHEETS