DAILY Warm-Up 5

Name _____ Date _____

THE RATTLESNAKE

Have you ever heard the rattle of a rattlesnake? In the wild, it can be one of the scariest sounds around. The rattlesnake is venomous, which means it is poisonous. A rattlesnake has something that sounds like a rattle at the end of its body. The rattle is an organ made up of loosely-attached pieces of horn. When rattled, the pieces of horn bounce against each other, making the rattle sound. The body of a rattlesnake is grayish or brownish gray with darker circular blotches along its back and sides. The underside of the rattlesnake is a creamish color.

The rattle on a rattlesnake is used to warn an intruder that the snake is there. A rattlesnake usually bites a person when someone tries to catch, kill, or harm it. When a rattlesnake bites a person, he or she should be treated with anti-venom, which fights the poison in the body. Most people do not die when a rattlesnake has bitten them. But when people are bitten by a rattlesnake, they should receive immediate medical attention.

What does a rattlesnake eat? A rattlesnake doesn't want to eat a human when and if it bites one; it is only trying to defend itself. Rattlesnakes eat rodents. This helps control the rodent population. Rattlesnakes need rodents and a place to hide in order to survive. Rattlesnakes stay in the same general area, but they will not fight other rattlesnakes.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about rattlesnakes?
   a. The author is in favor of rattlesnake control.
   b. The author has been bitten by a rattlesnake and dislikes them.
   c. The author is afraid of rattlesnakes.
   d. The author sees the need and purpose for rattlesnakes.

2. The second paragraph instructs readers on what . . .
   a. to do if they see a rattlesnake.
   b. to do if bitten by a rattlesnake.
   c. a rattlesnake looks like.
   d. a rattlesnakes preys on.

3. Will a rattlesnake eat a human?
   a. Yes, if they are threatened by one.
   b. No, unless they are starving.
   c. No, they eat rodents.
   d. Yes, when there are no rodents around.

4. Where might this information about the rattlesnake most likely be found?
   a. in a pamphlet on rattlesnakes
   b. on a cereal box
   c. in a book about rodents
   d. in a book about the Northwest

LIVEWORKSHEETS