DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

LADYBUGS

Have you ever seen a small, red beetle with black dots on its back? These little insects are called ladybugs. These little insects are harmless to humans. A ladybug does not bite or sting humans. Ladybugs are also harmless to plants, and they do not carry diseases. But how did the ladybug get its name? There are many stories. One of these stories came from the Middle Ages. The crops were being eaten, and the villagers began praying. The red beetles with black dots came and ate the harmful insects. These beetles were named "the Beetles of Our Lady." The name was shortened to lady beetles or ladybugs.

Since then, the ladybug has been known to bring good luck. There are many beliefs about ladybugs from all over the world. It has been said that if a ladybug lands on a young maiden's hand, she will marry soon. In England, it has been said that if a farmer sees a ladybug, he will have a good harvest. Some people believe that the number of spots you see on the ladybug's back will represent the number of children you will have.

Ladybugs today can still bring good fortune. If you have a ladybug in your garden, then you do not need to use insect poison to get rid of aphids. Aphids are tiny insects that are harmful to many plants. They suck the juice from the leaves of the plant. A ladybug can eat as many as 50 aphids in a day. Some people buy ladybugs to fight the aphids.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to this reading passage, why might someone want to buy a ladybug?
   a. They are more expensive than insecticides.
   b. Ladybugs kill aphids that can be harmful to plants.
   c. Ladybugs bring good luck.
   d. Ladybugs will reproduce.

2. This passage is mostly about . . .
   a. aphids.
   b. good farming practices.
   c. the anatomy of a ladybug.
   d. general information of ladybugs.

3. According to the passage, what do some people believe will happen when a ladybug lands on the hand of a young maiden?

   _____

   _____

4. According to the passage, what might ladybugs first have been called?
   a. lady in waiting
   b. lady buggle
   c. the Beetles of Our Lady
   d. bug of a lady

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

THE PANDA BEAR

One of the most unusual bears known to man is the panda bear. Panda bears live in southwestern China. They live in misty forests of bamboo. There are two main types of pandas. They are the giant black-and-white panda and the red panda. They weigh anywhere from 175 to 275 pounds. They get anywhere from five to six feet in height. A newborn panda cub is about the size of a chipmunk. They are born blind and are completely helpless. They rely heavily on their mother. Once the baby panda leaves its mother, it will live all alone.

Pandas are active during both the day and at night. The most important plant in the life of a panda bear is bamboo. They spend about 12 hours of their day eating bamboo. That's a lot of bamboo! Pandas have special bones in their wrists that enable them to grab the stalks of the bamboo. Pandas will peel away the outer edge of the stalk and eat the soft inner portion of the bamboo. Their giant molars crush the bamboo stalks. The panda will also eat the bamboo leaves. Pandas have also been known to eat mushrooms, insects, grasses, fish, fruit, and rice.

Pandas move in a very slow, methodical manner. Unlike some bears, the panda bear does not hibernate. They live in a climate where they can be active and eating throughout the year.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A different title for this reading passage could be . . .
   a. "Panda Paradise."
   b. "China's Bear."
   c. "All You Want to Know About Bears."
   d. "Illegal Bear Hunting."

2. Newborn panda cubs are <u>not</u> born . . .
   a. being able to see.
   b. blind.
   c. the size of a chipmunk.
   d. helpless.

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

4. If you wanted to find out more about pandas, you could . . .
   a. read a book about how bears hibernate.
   b. watch a television program about bamboo.
   c. meet somebody who lives in China.
   d. watch a television program about the different types of bears.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

KILLER WHALES

Have you ever heard of the killer whale? Did you know that killer whales live in oceans all over the world? They are found mostly in the Arctic and Antarctic oceans, where the water is cold. Killer whales can also be spotted on both shores of the United States. Killer whales have been spotted in warmer waters such as the Bahamas and the Gulf of Mexico. This just goes to show how adaptable the killer whale can be.

How do killer whales differ from other whales? One way is in their coloring. A killer whale is striking in its coloring of black and white. This makes it easy to spot. Killer whales have a sleek body form. They are smaller when compared to most whales. Killer whales are typically 19–22 feet long and can weigh anywhere from 8,000 to 12,000 pounds.

Killer whales get their name for a reason. They are the top predators in the ocean. Killer whales will eat almost any kind of sea animal including sea lions, fish, squid, seals, walruses, birds, sea turtles, penguins, and otters. It's been recorded that even a moose has been found in the stomach of a killer whale. Killer whales are very agile and can move quickly through the water. In fact, they are the fastest swimming marine mammals. This speed and agility makes it easy for the killer whale to hunt. Often times, killer whales will hunt in groups. This improves their chances of catching prey.

STORY QUESTIONS

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

2. In the last paragraph, what does the word *recorded* mean?
   a. tape recorded
   b. documented
   c. measured
   d. opened

3. To improve their chances of catching prey, killer whales often . . .
   a. hunt animals that can't swim.
   b. hunt tiny animals.
   c. hunt in groups.
   d. attack at sunset.

4. Based on information in the passage, how did the killer whale get its name?
   a. by hunting in groups
   b. by being black and white
   c. by being smaller than most whales
   d. by being the top predator of the ocean

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

THE SLOTH

What is a sloth? Did you know that a sloth is a slow-moving animal that lives in trees? Sometimes people are called sloths, but that's not because they live in trees; rather, it's because they are moving so slowly. A sloth spends most of its time hanging upside down in a tree. A sloth will eat, sleep, and give birth hanging upside down! Their curved claws make it easy for them to hang onto the tree.

Sloths are four-legged animals. They spend almost all of their lives up in a tree. They walk upside down along the branches. Sloths are also known to be good swimmers. Sloths are found in Central and South America.

The sloth is nocturnal, which means it is active at night instead of the day. This means that it sleeps during the day. The sloth usually keeps to itself, although some female sloths congregate in small groups.

The sloth has a thick, brown coat of fur. They are plant-eaters and eat mostly leaves, tender shoots, and fruit. The sloth has green algae growing on its fur. The sloth will lick the algae for nutrients. The algae also helps protect the sloth from enemies. Eagles, jaguars, and humans hunt the sloth. The algae growing on the sloth helps to camouflage it.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In order for a sloth to live in a tree, it needs . . .
   a. courage.
   b. to be the right size.
   c. curved claws.
   d. to eat only plants.

2. According to the passage, how do sloths keep from being eaten?
   a. They are easily hidden.
   b. They are camouflaged by green algae.
   c. They are slow moving.
   d. They have thick, brown fur.

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

4. The best way to find the answer to question #3 above is to . . .
   a. reread the entire passage.
   b. reread the first paragraph and determine the main idea.
   c. look for the words "sloth" and "habitat."
   d. skim the passage and look for clues.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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