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

DAILY Warm-Up 10

Name _____ Date _____

THE KOALA

Have you ever seen a cute and cuddly koala? These animals look an awful lot like teddy bears, but they are not bears. A full-grown koala gets about as big as a yardstick and can weigh up to 20 pounds. Koalas have 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. Koalas enjoy the moist and tender tips of these leaves. The koala is able to get enough water and food from the leaves.

Koalas have 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. Koalas primarily come from Australia. Many koalas prefer to live on the island on the southeast shore of Australia. Koalas 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 carries its baby in a pouch for six months.
   b. The koala eats eucalyptus leaves.
   c. The koala has to live near a watering hole.
   d. The koala has sharp claws.

3. According to the passage, why do koalas 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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