



Name _____

Date _____

THE EAR

Did you hear that? If you did, then you heard it with your ear. The ear is a very important part of the body. Sounds can be soft or loud and the ear can hear almost all sounds. The ear takes in sounds, then sends this information to the brain. Ears also help you keep your balance so that you don't fall over.

The ear is made up of three main sections. These parts are the outer ear, the middle ear, and the inner ear. Each part of the ear plays an important role in hearing. The outer ear is the part that you can see. If you whisper in someone's ear, you are whispering into the outer ear. The outer ear holds the ear canal. This is where the wax is made. This earwax keeps infections from getting inside the ear. Earwax also collects dirt and keeps the ear clean.

Sound waves enter the ear and travel to the middle ear. Within the middle ear is the eardrum, which the sound waves strike and cause to vibrate.

The inner ear receives the vibrations into the cochlea. This is a small tube in the inner ear. The small tubes are filled with liquid. Tiny hairs line the tube. When the vibrations cause the hair to move, it creates nerve signals that the brain understands is sound. The brain understands the signal and hears the sound.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which paragraph explains how the eardrum works?
 - first paragraph
 - last paragraph
 - third paragraph
 - fourth paragraph
- What inferences can you make about the ear after reading this passage?
 - Hearing is a fact of life for most people.
 - Hearing aids are important tools for the elderly.
 - Hearing is learned after the first year of life.
 - The ear plays an important role in our being able to hear.
- What is the author's opinion about the ear?
 - The author thinks the ear can be used in a transplant.
 - The author thinks there has not been enough research about the ear.
 - The author is interested in sharing the fascinating process of hearing.
 - The author is learning how the brain understands sound.



Name _____ Date _____

INSECTS

Insects are animals that do not have backbones. They have a hard exoskeleton, three body parts, two antennae, three pairs of jointed legs, and compound eyes. Some insects have wings. Insects hatch from eggs. They also breathe through special holes called spiracles.

There are millions of different types of insects. Insects are the largest group of animals. Scientists say that insects have been around since long before the dinosaurs. Insects are found all over the world. They live on all continents, in backyards, and even in the walls of homes. Insects live right alongside humans.

Many people are afraid of insects, but not all insects are harmful. Insects may look scary to humans, but that does not mean they are harmful. For example, daddy long-leg spiders, June bugs, dragonflies, moths, and butterflies are all harmless insects.

There are some insects that are harmful to humans. These insects include centipedes, ticks, lice, bees, hornets, and mosquitoes.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why do humans fear insects?
 - a. They eat human food.
 - b. They look scary.
 - c. They are all dangerous to humans.
 - d. They are more powerful than humans.
2. What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
 - a. to explain how insects bite
 - b. to explain how insects are hatched
 - c. to explain how the insect body is constructed
 - d. to explain that not all insects are harmful
3. Which paragraph would you read to find out about the types of harmful insects?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. third paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. second paragraph
4. Which sentence explains how insects breathe?
 - a. Insects breathe through their eyes.
 - b. Insects breathe through special holes called spiracles.
 - c. Insects breathe through the spiracles in their feet.
 - d. Insects breathe through their antennae.



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THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

The circulatory system is an extremely important part of your body. This system transports blood throughout your body. At any given time, your body has five liters of blood flowing through it. The heart, the lungs, and the blood vessels all play an active role in blood flow.

Over the course of a person's life, the heart beats about 3 billion times. That is a lot of very important beats. The beating of the heart means that blood is being sent to the body. The heart is a muscle. It is a very strong muscle. It is divided into four main parts. The blood leaves the heart and enters the aorta. Fresh blood from the aorta goes to the brain.

The brain needs the oxygen in the blood. The brain could not live without this. Blood also travels through the lungs. Carbon dioxide is taken out and oxygen is put in its place. The arteries and veins take the blood to all parts of the body. The blood returns back to the heart through the veins.

You can hear your heart pumping blood in your body by using the stethoscope. One end of this tool is placed on your heart, and the earpieces go in your ears. The stethoscope works like a mini microphone so that you can hear the heart beating.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What could be a different title for this passage?
 - "Blood in the Body"
 - "The Heart and Lungs"
 - "How the Circulatory System Works"
 - "Arteries and Veins in the Body"
- Which of the following is not a fact about the circulatory system?
 - The heart beats about 3 billion times in the average lifetime.
 - The blood contains oxygen for the brain.
 - The blood returns to the heart through the veins.
 - The brain helps the body move and have feelings.
- What was meant by the use of the words "active role" in the first paragraph?
 - Without the heart, the body would die.
 - The brain, heart, and lungs are connected.
 - The brain, heart, and lungs play an important role.
 - The heart, lungs, and blood vessels work together to get blood flowing through the body.
- How did the stethoscope help doctors learn more about the heart?
 - They could hear the heart at work.
 - They could use the stethoscope to measure the amount of blood flow.
 - They could use the stethoscope to hear if a person has a heart or not.