DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM

We all use our muscles to move our bodies. Without muscles, you would not be able to talk, eat, walk, sleep, or move at all. There are over 650 muscles that your body uses. These muscles are attached to the skeleton.

There are three types of muscles. They are the skeletal muscles, the cardiac muscles, and the smooth muscles. All of these muscles can tighten.

Some of these are voluntary muscles, and others are involuntary muscles. Voluntary muscles move only when we think about it. The muscles in our arms and legs work like this.

Involuntary muscles move when we aren't even thinking about it. The heart is an example of an involuntary muscle. If we had to think about it to make our heart beat, we might forget.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Doctors who work with the muscles would be most interested in a machine that . . .
   a. helps damaged muscles move.
   b. explains the function of each muscle.
   c. demonstrates how muscles work.
   d. takes pictures of muscles.

2. According to the passage, how do involuntary muscles differ from voluntary muscles?
   a. There is no difference.
   b. They work together to get the heart moving.
   c. We move involuntary muscles without thinking about it.
   d. Voluntary muscles move on their own.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?
   a. to show how muscles help us talk
   b. to explain the types of muscles and how they work
   c. to show how muscles help our body move
   d. to show how involuntary muscles work

4. What do the three types of muscles have in common?
   a. They are all involuntary muscles.
   b. They are all voluntary muscles.
   c. They carry the blood flow to all parts of the body.
   d. They are all able to tighten.

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DAILY Warm-Up 12

Name _____ Date _____

TORNADOES

Have you ever been in a tornado? Have you heard about a tornado? Tornadoes are defined as a rotating column of air. A tornado can be weak, strong, or violent. Most tornadoes are weak. Only 30% become strong or violent tornadoes. A tornado usually comes down from a funnel-shaped cloud. The wind of a tornado can move as quickly as 110 to 200 mph.

Sometimes a tornado is called a twister. Some people like to chase tornadoes. They use equipment to measure how fast the tornado is moving. Unless you are an expert, you should never chase a tornado. You should not even get in a car during a tornado. The tornado can pick up a car and toss it aside.

What should you do to be safe in a tornado? A tornado can toss and throw things all over. It is important to get to a shelter. A tornado shelter might be in a basement or underground. The shelter needs to be sturdy and not a building that can be torn down by the intense winds of a tornado. Stay away from any windows or doors. Protect yourself from flying debris. All of these things can help you stay safe.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A likely reason people are fascinated with tornadoes is because . . .
   a. it is not known how they are made.
   b. they are a powerful force.
   c. it is a predictable weather pattern.
   d. it easy to follow a tornado.

2. Which of the following would be the best place to be during a tornado?
   a. in a strong building
   b. in a car
   c. in a tent
   d. under a desk

3. What is a reason to stay away from windows during a tornado?
   a. to avoid feeling the intense wind
   b. to avoid getting hit from flying debris
   c. to avoid being seen by the tornado
   d. to stay warm during the cold winds of the tornado

4. The tornado has different names such as . . .
   a. storm.
   b. disturbance.
   c. twister.

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DAILY Warm-Up 13

Name _____ Date _____

CONSTELLATIONS

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered about the stars? Did you know that these stars have been there since long before you were born? People have looked at the stars in the night sky for millions of years. Some of these stars seem to be in groups that form shapes. A group of stars is called a "constellation." Names were given to these groups of stars.

The best known group of stars is the Big Dipper. It is a group of seven stars. Three stars form the handle, and four stars form the dipper. The Big Dipper is actually part of a bigger group of stars called the Great Bear, or Ursa Major. Some say that this big group of stars forms the shape of a bear.

Another well-known group of stars is Orion. Orion was a Greek hunter from long ago. He wore a belt with different tools hanging from it. If you look closely, you can see Orion's Belt.

The Little Dipper is a group of stars that looks a bit like the Big Dipper. The North Star sits at the end of the Little Dipper's handle.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is this passage mainly about?
   a. how the stars can be seen to form pictures in the sky
   b. how the stars were discovered in the night sky
   c. how each star was named
   d. how the Little Dipper can be found

2. Why was the constellation named the Ursa Major?
   a. It was not as small as Ursa Minor.
   b. It looked like a bear.
   c. It was one of the tools on Orion's belt.
   d. It is a constellation.

3. According to the passage, who was Orion?
   a. He was the leader.
   b. He was the king.
   c. He was a scientist studying constellations.
   d. He was a hunter.

4. Based on information in the passage, how can you find the North Star?
   a. Look for the Ursa Major.
   b. Look for Orion's Belt.
   c. Look for the Little Dipper's handle.
   d. Look for the constellations towards the north.

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DAILY Warm-Up 14

Name _____ Date _____

VENUS

Venus is the second planet from the sun. Venus was named after the goddess of beauty and love. It is the sixth-largest planet. It has been known as the brightest planet. For millions of years, humans have noticed Venus.

The first spacecraft to Venus was in 1962. There have been many visits since then. The rotation of Venus is very unusual. It rotates very slowly and in a direction opposite that of the other planets. Venus is very similar to Earth. It is about the same size. They are also made of similar materials. The surface of Venus, however, has too much carbon dioxide to have any life.

Venus is quite dry. It used to have water (like Earth), but it has dried up. On the surface, Venus has slow winds. There are strong winds on the top of the clouds. Venus does not have a moon. Venus is almost always covered with clouds. The surface of Venus has small craters all over it. Venus also has lots of volcanoes on it. Venus is a fascinating planet.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the author's feelings about Venus?
   a. indifferent
   b. disapproves
   c. unsure
   d. interested

2. Which sentence shows how the author feels about Venus?
   a. Venus is a fascinating planet.
   b. Venus has lots of volcanoes on it.
   c. The first spacecraft went to Venus in 1962.
   d. Venus is the brightest planet.

3. Which question cannot be answered after reading this passage?
   a. How big is Venus compared to other planets?
   b. Is Venus similar to Earth?
   c. What is the temperature on Venus?
   d. How did Venus get its name?

4. What is the meaning of word *noticed* in this passage?
   a. wondered about
   b. been aware of
   c. recognized
   d. understood

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DAILY Warm-Up 15

Name _____ Date _____

THE ASTEROID BELT

An asteroid is a piece of rock. Most asteroids are made of rock, with some parts being nickel and iron. Many people say that an asteroid is what was leftover after the planets were formed. These rocks orbit around the sun.

Most of these asteroids are orbiting between Mars and Jupiter. This is known as the asteroid belt. It circulates as a belt of rocks around the sun. Sometimes these rocks run into one another. This changes their course and can break them into smaller pieces.

Some experts believe that these floating asteroids were actually part of another planet that never formed. Some experts call them "minor planets." It is said that if all of the asteroids were pulled together to form a planet, it would not be much bigger than the moon. If one of these asteroids gets into the gravitational pull of a planet, it will orbit it like a moon would.

There have been times when an asteroid has fallen into Earth's gravitational field and crashed into Earth, but this is very rare.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why does the author say that an asteroid hitting Earth is rare?
   a. It happens quite frequently.
   b. It can cause a lot of damage.
   c. It doesn't happen very often.
   d. It can be tracked using satellite photos.

2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
   a. what the asteroid belt is made up of
   b. the relationship between Mars and Jupiter
   c. what happens when an asteroid gets in the gravity of a planet
   d. the fact that an asteroid is a piece of a planet

3. What is the meaning of the term "minor planets" in the third paragraph?
   a. smaller or lesser
   b. unconcerned
   c. bothered
   d. unsettled

4. Most asteroids are made of . . .
   a. planets.
   b. stars.
   c. air.
   d. rock.

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