



Name _____

Date _____

THE OCEANS

What would it be like to live in the ocean? Many sea animals have found this to be the perfect place to live. Oceans cover more than 75% of Earth's surface. This means that the ocean is the largest habitat on Earth.

There are four oceans. They are the Pacific, Indian, Atlantic, and Arctic Oceans. The four oceans all connect to each other. There are also many seas. Seas are smaller branches of oceans. Some examples of seas are the Caribbean Sea and Mediterranean Sea.

Have you wondered why the ocean is salty? Rivers collect salt as they travel over rocks. The salt filters out into the seas and oceans. It dissolves in the ocean but doesn't evaporate. This means that the salt just builds up over time.

Waves on the surface of the ocean are caused by the wind. The stronger the wind, the stronger the waves will be. Waves only move up and down. Waves do not represent a flow of water.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why is the ocean salty?
 - a. Salt is generated in the ocean.
 - b. The salt lies at the bottom of the ocean.
 - c. The ocean collects salt from rivers.
 - d. The waves create the salt.
2. What is the meaning of the word *dissolve*?
 - a. build up
 - b. encourage
 - c. refuse to discuss
 - d. dissipate
3. Why is the ocean Earth's largest habitat?
 - a. It fights gravity.
 - b. It emits a powerful force.
 - c. It makes up 75% of Earth's surface.
 - d. It is part of the Caribbean Sea.
4. Which of the following statements was not mentioned in the passage?
 - a. The wind makes the waves.
 - b. The waves only move up and down.
 - c. The waves keep things in the ocean moving.



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CHILDHOOD OBESITY

These days, more and more children are overweight. A name for being extremely overweight is *obese*. Why is this happening? Doctors, teachers, and other adults believe that children are not getting the right amount of exercise and are not eating the right kinds of food.

In the past, children used to be more active. In early America, there was a lot of work to be done. Children helped on the farms and in the factories. Children didn't have much time to sit around. Today children go to school and come home to watch the television or play video games. Too many of their activities involve sitting and not being active enough. Children are not getting enough exercise, such as running, walking, or riding a bike.

Another main reason for children being overweight is the types of food they eat. More and more families are eating at restaurants or fixing quick foods that are loaded with calories. These types of food begin to add up day after day. Children are eating too many of the wrong foods and not enough of the right foods.

Some of the foods that children should be eating include fruits and vegetables, dairy, grains and cereals, and meat and poultry. These types of foods can help children maintain their weight and help the body fight disease.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is not a reason why children don't eat enough healthy foods?
 - a. Children eat more prepared foods than homemade foods.
 - b. Children eat out at restaurants more than they used to.
 - c. Children weigh more than they used to.
 - d. Unhealthy foods are more readily available these days.
2. Which of the following statements would be the best one to be added to the passage?
 - a. Children need to be taught about the foods they eat and the food choices they make.
 - b. Parents are obese and overweight.
 - c. Doctors are finding that more and more children are obese.
 - d. Scientists are concerned about the food children eat.
3. What is the meaning of the word *maintain* in this passage?
 - a. increase
 - b. decrease
 - c. think about
 - d. keep steady



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LITTERING

It is very sad to see litter on the highways or in parks and other public places. Littering is a big problem that needs to be stopped. There is no reason why people need to litter. Someone who litters is a lazy person. It means he or she is too lazy to get up and throw away his or her own trash.

Many things have been tried to stop people from littering. Laws have been passed to try to prevent littering. If someone is caught littering on the highway, he or she can be fined to pay for it. This seems to discourage some people, but certainly not everyone.

Littering can cause a lot of problems. Littering can be harmful to the wild animals that live in the parks and forests. Littering can kill animals or make them sick. Sometimes food is left with trash and other things. Wild animals eat this food, and then sometimes they get sick. Littering also looks bad. It's hard to enjoy nature when it is serving as a trash can for us!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion about littering?
 - a. tolerant
 - b. pathetic
 - c. disgusted
 - d. annoyed
2. Which of the following sentences clarifies how the author feels about littering?
 - a. This seems to discourage some people from littering.
 - b. It is very sad to see litter on the highways or in parks.
 - c. There should be a fine for everyone who litters.
 - d. Littering is more and more common today.
3. Which of the following is not an effect of littering?
 - a. Littering is harmful to animals.
 - b. Animals can get sick and die from litter.
 - c. Littering looks bad.
 - d. People can get paid if caught littering.
4. Who does the author blame for littering?
 - a. the audience
 - b. lazy people
 - c. wild animals
 - d. children



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TEACHER SELECTION

It would be a great idea to let children choose their own teachers. So many problems would be solved this way. Besides, children should have the right to choose the teacher that they think would best meet their needs. There should be a day set aside for students at the end of the year to meet all the available teachers for the following year. This could be a question-and-answer period where the students ask questions and the teachers answer. The teacher could also discuss his or her teaching style. Students could determine if they would be comfortable in that classroom.

Many students do not get along with their teachers. Other students are afraid of their teachers. Both of these issues get in the way of the student learning. If the student had more input on his or her teacher, school would be a happier place to be.

Of course the parents would need to be involved. The parents could also interview the teachers and ask questions. This would help alleviate many problems and concerns during the school year. There is the possibility that there would be students and parents who don't care who their teachers are. If this were the case, then these students would go wherever the principal felt like they should be placed. Teacher selection is an idea that needs to be considered!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which would be the best title for this reading passage?
 - a. "Choose Your Own Adventure"
 - b. "My Education—My Choice"
 - c. "Parental Requests"
 - d. "Teachers Choose to Teach"
2. Which of the following is the main reason to choose your own teacher?
 - a. Students would be able to select a teacher that meets their particular learning style.
 - b. Parents would be more comfortable in school.
 - c. You would get to choose the kids in your class.
 - d. Students would be able to pick a teacher whom they have heard good things about.
3. What is meant by the phrase *teacher's style* in this passage?
 - a. the way a teacher teaches and the classroom environment
 - b. the clothes a teacher wears
 - c. the way a teacher decorates the bulletin boards and classroom
 - d. the way a teacher begins class each day



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CHARACTER EDUCATION

There has been a lot of talk lately about the importance of teaching values in the classroom. Values are characteristics such as honesty, kindness, hard work, and integrity. The classroom should not be responsible to make sure these ideas are taught. Schools should support these values, but they should not be held responsible to teach them. It is up to the parents to decide what values should be taught. This is the parent's job and right.

One reason is that the schools do not have time to teach all of the necessary values. Teachers barely have enough time to teach the subjects and topics they are already responsible for teaching. How would the schools decide which values to teach? There would be teachers who disagree with parents on what to teach.

Another reason is that there isn't enough money to take on this job. School budgets are already stretched too thin. Schools do not have the resources to teach values adequately. Students need consistent modeling and instruction on these life skills. Let the schools support these values but focus on the curriculum.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. People who agree with this passage probably feel that . . .
 - a. parents should take more responsibility in teaching their children.
 - b. schools need more responsibilities.
 - c. schools have enough money to teach values.
 - d. teachers should receive more training and instruction.
2. The main question this passage asks is . . .
 - a. When did values begin being taught in schools?
 - b. Why doesn't the school teach values?
 - c. Who should be responsible to teach values?
 - d. If the school doesn't teach the values, how will students be taught?
3. _____ is an example of a value.

a. Aggression	c. Courage
b. Passiveness	d. Disagreement
4. Which of the following statements is not a reason why schools shouldn't be responsible for teaching values?
 - a. Schools do not have enough teachers to teach values.
 - b. Parents and teachers would disagree on which values should be taught.
 - c. Schools are not aware of what values are.
 - d. Schools do not have time or money to be responsible for teaching values.