



Name _____

Date _____

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

Nocturnal animals are simply animals that are more active at night. Nocturnal animals typically sleep during the day. They also live in a den or a burrow so they are hidden from the sun and the sounds of activity. Many nocturnal animals live in the desert. They prefer to come out at night so they can avoid the extreme temperatures of the daytime.

You may wonder how nocturnal animals can see in the darkness. Most nocturnal animals have special eyes that help them see at night. Owls, cats, and lemurs all have eyes that see better at night. Bats, on the other hand, use sound as a way for them to find their way around. This is called *echolocation*.

Some scientists are finding that nocturnal animals that live close to housing developments or other commercial buildings are having a difficult time. This is because these buildings have lights on all night, lighting up the surrounding area. For example, the sea turtle in Florida lays her eggs at night. When the babies hatch at night and head for the ocean, they can be taken off course by the bright lights. Scientists are studying this problem to find a solution.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is unique about nocturnal animals?
 - a. These animals are without the sense of smell.
 - b. These animals feed their young.
 - c. These animals are active at night instead of day.
 - d. These animals have evolved significantly through the years.
2. Which paragraph does not explain the definition of or types of nocturnal animals?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. second paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
3. Which of the following statements explains *echolocation*?
 - a. Bats, on the other hand, use sound as a way for them to find their way around.
 - b. Nocturnal animals are simply animals that are more active at night instead of the day.
 - c. This is because these buildings have lights on all night, lighting up the surrounding area.
 - d. When the babies hatch at night and head for the ocean, they can be taken off course by the bright lights.



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THE EYE

Have you ever wondered how the eye works? The human eye is about as big as a ping pong ball. It sits in the eye socket inside the skull. The eyelid protects the front part of the eye. The eyelid is a piece of skin that is movable so that it can open and close. The eyelid also helps keep the eye moist. It does this by blinking. Blinking is a voluntary and involuntary action. The eye blinks involuntarily several times a minute.

The eyelid also has great reflexes. This is a form of protection for the eye. If a ball or other object is coming towards the eye, the eyelid will quickly close to protect the eye. The eyelid will also close or squint when there is bright sunlight. The eyelashes are another important protection for the eye. Eyelashes keep dirt and other particles from getting into the eyes.

The white part of the eyeball is called the sclera. The sclera is the outside coating of the eyeball. Tiny blood vessels line the sclera. The cornea rests directly on top of the colored part of the eye. The cornea is completely transparent so that light can filter through. Behind the cornea are the iris and the pupil. The iris is the colorful part of the eye. The pupil determines how much light is allowed into the eye. The eye is an amazing part of the body.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the eyelashes?
 - a. to keep the eye moist
 - b. to allow light to filter into the eye
 - c. to allow movement in the eye
 - d. to keep dirt and other particles out of the eye
2. What part of the eye is the colorful part?

a. cornea	c. iris
b. pupil	d. sclera
3. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?

a. third paragraph	c. second paragraph
b. fourth paragraph	d. none of the above
4. Name the different ways in which the eyelid protects the eye.



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SNOWFLAKES

A snowflake is essentially a piece of ice falling to the ground. A snowflake is a crystalline form of ice. Snowflakes come in many different forms and shapes. It is said that no two snowflakes are ever alike. So while each snowflake is unique, snowflakes do have characteristics in common. They are all hexagonal. This means that they all have six sides or branches. Snowflakes are also symmetrical.

There are many different types of snowflakes. One of the forms is called the stellar dendrites. This form looks like six trees extending from the center. Another form is the sector plate. These snowflakes have plate-like arms that extend from the center. These are made from flat, slender pieces of ice.

Spatial dendrites are another form of snowflake. These snowflakes are not flat and slender pieces of ice. These snowflakes are made from individual snowflakes all jumbled up together. Branches of these crystals extend from the center.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What do sector plate snowflakes look like?
 - a. six trees extending from the center
 - b. crystalline form of water ice
 - c. individual snowflakes all jumbled together
 - d. six plate-like arms that extend from center
2. What do all snowflakes have in common?

3. What is the meaning of the word *extend* as used in the passage?
 - a. scared
 - b. steady
 - c. excitable
 - d. lengthen
4. Where would you read to find out about stellar dendrites?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. beginning of the second paragraph
 - c. end of the third paragraph
 - d. second paragraph