

“Dogs and Wolves”

Instructions: Read the passage and complete the table.

Scientists know that there were wolves on Earth about one million years ago. Dogs, on the other hand, have not been on Earth nearly as long. The oldest dog remains, found in Germany, are about 14,000 years old. Scientists have proven that dogs are descended from wolves. Although wolves and dogs share some of the same genes, they are not exactly the same. In fact, there are as many differences as there are similarities between the two.

First, there are physical differences between the two. Wolves have longer legs, larger feet, and a general skull than most dogs. They also walk differently than dogs. A wolf runs on its toes with its heels raised up from the ground. This is more similar to a cat's walk than a dog's.

Second, there are mental differences between the two. Dogs have been domesticated. This means that dogs have been brought under the control of humans in order to provide companionship. Wolves have not been domesticated. They are wild animals. Having a dog as a pet is like having a juvenile wolf. A young wolf will turn into a mature adult, while a young dog does not mature. A dog might seem smart by performing tricks for people. Wolves need to be smart to survive in the wild. While it may not be impossible to have a wolf as a pet, scientists are of the opinion that a wolf could never be domesticated in the same way as a dog.

It is important to keep in mind that the differences between the two are great, and each should be appreciated in its own habitat or home.

Directions: Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the kind of animal to which they relate. TWO of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Wolves

Dogs

- A. Are domesticated
- B. Become mature adults
- C. Are less intelligent
- D. Are like juvenile cats
- E. Do not mature Dogs
- F. Are wild
- G. Have thick skull bones
- H. Do not run on their toes
- I. Have long leg, large feet

“Amphibians and Reptiles”

Instructions: Read the passage and complete the table using the information.

Amphibians and reptiles are two classes of animals that are in many ways quite similar. Both animals tend to spend their lives partly in water and partly on land, though this is not always the case. Both are cold-blooded, meaning they depend upon the environment for body warmth. They also often have similar appearances, including greenish skin and long, low bodies. Finally, both classes of animals lay eggs. Despite these similarities, amphibians and reptiles are different in important ways.

Amphibians include frogs, toads, salamanders, and snake-like species called caecilians. Almost all species of amphibians must spend part of their lives in water. For example, they usually reproduce and lay their eggs in water. These eggs are soft and jelly-like. Furthermore, young amphibians are often born in a larval or worm-like stage in water. They are born with gills to breathe the oxygen in water and develop lungs to breathe air as they become adults. Finally, the skin of amphibians is usually smooth and wet, though toads are a notable exception to this rule.

Reptiles include lizards, turtles, and snakes. While many reptiles, like turtles and crocodiles for example, spend much of their lives in water, they lay their eggs on land. Unlike amphibians, reptiles lay eggs with protective shells and young reptiles do not go through a larval stage. Also, reptiles are born with lungs rather than gills, so they can't remain under water as long as amphibians can. Finally, reptile skin is usually dry and is covered with relatively hard scales.

Both amphibians and reptiles can be found in most areas on Earth. With recent changes in the Earth's environment and human expansion into their natural habitats, many species of both classes are starting to disappear. Hopefully, plans to protect these animals for future generations to study and enjoy will be successful.

Directions: Select appropriate phrases from the passage and write them under the type of animal that they describe.

Amphibians

Reptiles
