# R3 TOPICS & MAIN IDEAS (3e)

ENGLISH 2 SHINE

## EXERCISE 6D: More Practice Answering Questions on Facts and Details

Read the following passage. Circle the correct answer to each question.

The world above the forest floor can be observed by all of us. Rarely, however, do we take the time to notice the teeming life and bustling activity that occurs beneath the ground we walk on.

Of all soil-dwelling creatures, the most abundant are mites and springtails, insect-like creatures that literally eat their way through caverns of subterranean vegetation. The tiny, eight-legged mites lay their eggs on plant matter, which their larvae eat and convert into fresh soil. The bright-colored springtails are named for their ability to leap long distances during their search for decomposed plant matter to eat.

Both mites and springtails are prey to a host of soil-dwelling predators. They thus anchor one end of the food chain that extends to higher forms of forest "lowlife," such as moles that feed on earthworms and shrews that eat beetles.

Those mammals, in turn, dig tunnels that function as underground byways for other subterranean species. Hibernating chipmunks, turtles, and salamanders sift and mix the soil when they burrow to winter dens. Cottontails and gray foxes excavate shallow dens as sanctuary from predators and harsh weather, while gray squirrels, hiding acorns for the lean season, further blend the earth. From microbe to people, thousands of species work the land upon which all life depends.

1. The passage states that which of the following are the most numerous inhabitants of the soil?
   (A) Foxes and cottontails
   (B) Earthworms and ants
   (C) Mites and springtails
   (D) Shrews and moles

2. According to the passage, all of the following are true about mites and springtails EXCEPT
   (A) they make new soil
   (B) they resemble insects
   (C) they form the lower end of the food chain
   (D) they hibernate for the winter

3. An example of predator and prey given in this passage is
   (A) mites and springtails
   (B) turtles and salamanders
   (C) moles and earthworms
   (D) gray squirrels and acorns

4. Which of the following are mentioned in the passage as living underground during the winter?
   (A) Shrews
   (B) Foxes
   (C) Squirrels
   (D) Salamanders

5. According to the author, the contribution that all the animals mentioned in the passage make to their habitat is
   (A) they form the food chain
   (B) they work the soil
   (C) they find safety in the soil
   (D) they convert plant material to new earth





LIVEWORKSHEETS

# R3 TOPICS & MAIN IDEAS (3e)

ENGLISH 2 SHINE

## EXERCISE 6E: More Practice Answering Questions on Facts and Details

Read the following passage. Circle the correct answer to each question.

Only humans have a spoken, symbolic language; scientists have long thought that nonhuman primates had much less sophisticated communication systems. True, but chimpanzees use gestures and many
*Line* voice sounds in the wild, while other apes use sounds to communicate
(5) territorial information. Chimpanzees seem to have a natural talent for learning symbolic language under controlled conditions. A famous chimpanzee named Washoe was trained to communicate with humans, using no less than 175 sign language gestures similar to those of the American Sign Language. After more than a year Washoe could associate
(10) particular signs with activities, such as eating and drinking. Another chimpanzee named Sarah was taught to read and write with plastic symbols and acquired a vocabulary of 130 different words, to the extent that she obeyed sequences of written instructions given with the symbols. But such experiments in communication with primates are a far cry from
(15) the versatility and grace of human speech.

1. According to the passage, all of the following are true of chimpanzee communication EXCEPT
   (A) it is less sophisticated than human language
   (B) it is observable in the wild
   (C) it uses gestures
   (D) it is as versatile as human communication

2. The passage states that the ability of chimpanzees to learn symbolic language in certain situations is due to
   (A) their territoriality
   (B) their use of gestures and voice sounds in the wild
   (C) their natural talent
   (D) their use of the American Sign Language

3. According to the passage, the chimpanzee Washoe
   (A) was able to associate some signs with activities after a year
   (B) used fewer than 175 signs to communicate
   (C) was fluent in the American Sign Language
   (D) could read and write

4. The passage states that Sarah's ability to read and write was judged by
   (A) the size of her vocabulary
   (B) her dexterity in using the plastic symbols
   (C) her obedience to instructions given in the symbol language
   (D) the number of symbol sequences that she could manipulate

5. According to the author, spoken, symbolic language is
   (A) not a sophisticated communication system
   (B) only available to humans
   (C) shared by both humans and chimpanzees
   (D) similar to the language used by chimpanzees







LIVEWORKSHEETS