

Weather Watchers

What will the weather be like today? Most people turn on the morning news to learn about the weather for the day. Did you know you can find clues about the upcoming weather right outside your door without even turning on the TV or radio? Animals give us clues about the weather.

If you are planning a picnic, watch your pets. If your dog paces and your cat twitches, make other plans. It may rain that day. If you want to wash your car, go outside early in the day and look for a spider. If you see a spider spinning a web, get out your soap and bucket. There will most likely be fair weather.

What do animals know about weather? Dampness collects in the air before rain. This makes each hair in an animal's fur swell. That is why your pets move about restlessly. Spiders do not like dampness in the air either. A spider web will not stick to a damp surface. So if a spider is spinning a web, the air must be dry.

What about crickets? If you are more in the mood for a swim, listen to the crickets. By counting their chirps, you can tell if it is warm enough. Count the number of times a cricket chirps in 15 seconds. Then add 37 to find out how warm it is. If you hear 35 chirps, it is 72 degrees.

How can stars help you to plan your fun? Stars are most easily seen when winds high in the air blow dust and clouds far away. These winds will drop to the ground the next day, making it windy. If you would rather fly a kite, look at the stars the night before. If they are bright, find your kite and string. It will be windy the next day.

1. What is the passage mostly about?
 - A. how animals predict the weather
 - B. how spiders spin their webs
 - C. which type of pet is best for you
 - D. when to plan a picnic
2. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?
 - A. how you know if it will be windy
 - B. how stars help you predict weather
 - C. how animals know if it will rain
 - D. how crickets help you predict weather
3. What is the main idea of paragraph 5?
 - A. when is the best time to go on a picnic
 - B. how do crickets tell the temperature
 - C. how do stars help to predict the weather
 - D. when should we watch the news

4. A student makes these notes about the article.

How Animals Predict the Weather

- starry nights mean windy days
- spiders don't spin webs before rain
- _____
- dogs pace before rain
- _____

Select **two** sentences from the list below that belong on the blank lines.

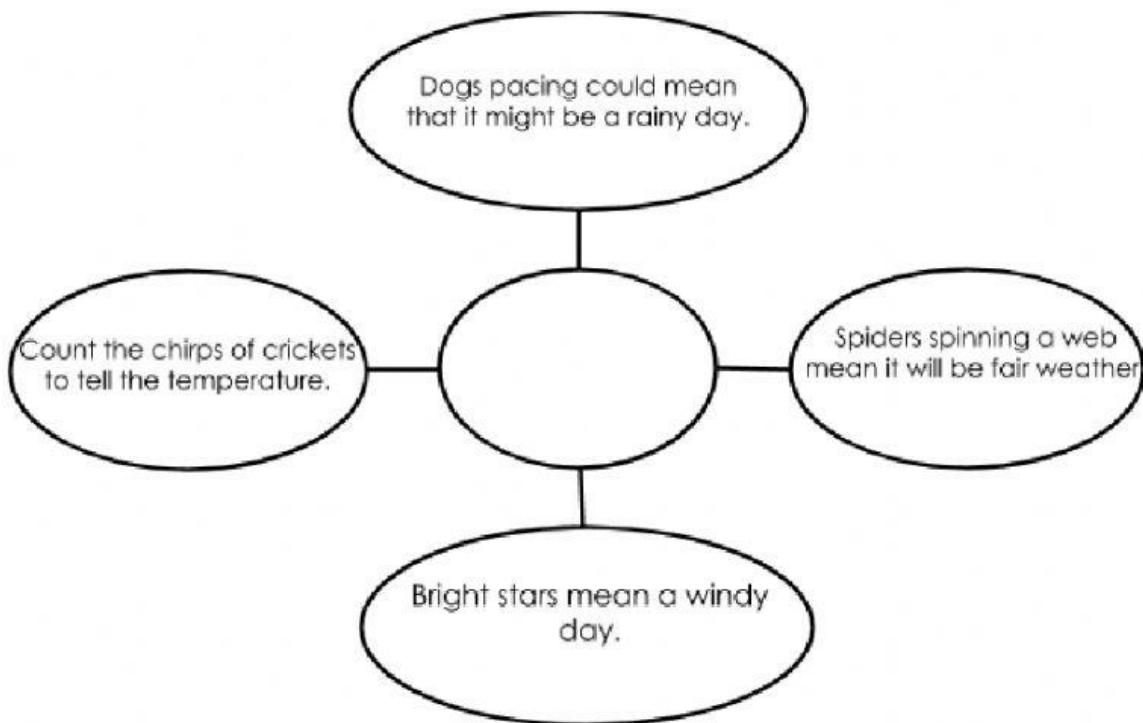
spiders spinning webs means dry weather

crickets chirping tells the temperature

horses running means dry weather

cats twitching means a hot day

5. Drag and drop the main idea into the web using information from the passage "Weather Watchers".



Most people turn on the TV to learn about the weather for the day.	Nature gives us clues about upcoming weather.	Predicting the weather is important.	Animals in nature live in different habitats.	A rainy day is not a good day for a picnic.
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Good Night, Don't Bite

There's nothing quite like falling sound asleep after a full day of work. Like people, animals need to rest after working hard. Some animals sleep floating in water. Others dig holes under the ground. Some even sleep high in trees or under leaves. No matter how they sleep, they all find some way to rest and stay safe while sleeping.

Animals sleeping in the sea can be a strange sight. Fish sleep with their eyes open. They do not have eyelids so they seem to stare into the depths while they nap. Sea otters sometimes sleep in beds of seaweed. This keeps them from floating away. Parrotfish blow a clear gel from their mouths when they are ready to snooze. The gel forms a bubble around them. The bubble protects them from harm while they sleep.

Other animals sleep under the ground. Chipmunks sleep curled up in a ball. Their beds are made of leaves and grass. They wake up now and then to snack of food stored nearby. Some desert frogs dig underground holes during the hot, dry season. A frog may stay in its hole for months.

High above the ground, monkeys make leafy nests in trees each evening before they retire. The tree's high branches help to keep the monkeys safe during the night. Even the insects buzzing around their heads rest. Some sleep under a leaf that will be their next meal. A bee may crawl down into a blossom to rest. When it crawls out the next morning, it is rested and ready to buzz off to work.

Sleep is essential to all living creatures. Whether under the ground, in the water, or in a tree, all animals find a way to get a good night's rest.

1. What is the passage mostly about?
 - A. how animals protect themselves
 - B. ways animals go to sleep
 - C. animals who sleep underground
 - D. how animals and humans are alike

2. What is paragraph 3 mostly about?
 - A. animals who sleep in the sea
 - B. animals who sleep in the trees
 - C. animals who sleep in the grass
 - D. animals who sleep underground

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
 - A. All animals sleep underwater.
 - B. Animals have unusual ways to sleep in the sea.
 - C. All animals sleep.
 - D. Most animals sleep underground.

4. A student makes these notes about the article.

Ways Animals Sleep	
• leafy nests in trees	
• floating in seaweed	
• _____	
• underground holes	
• _____	

Select **two** sentences from the list below that belong on the blank lines.

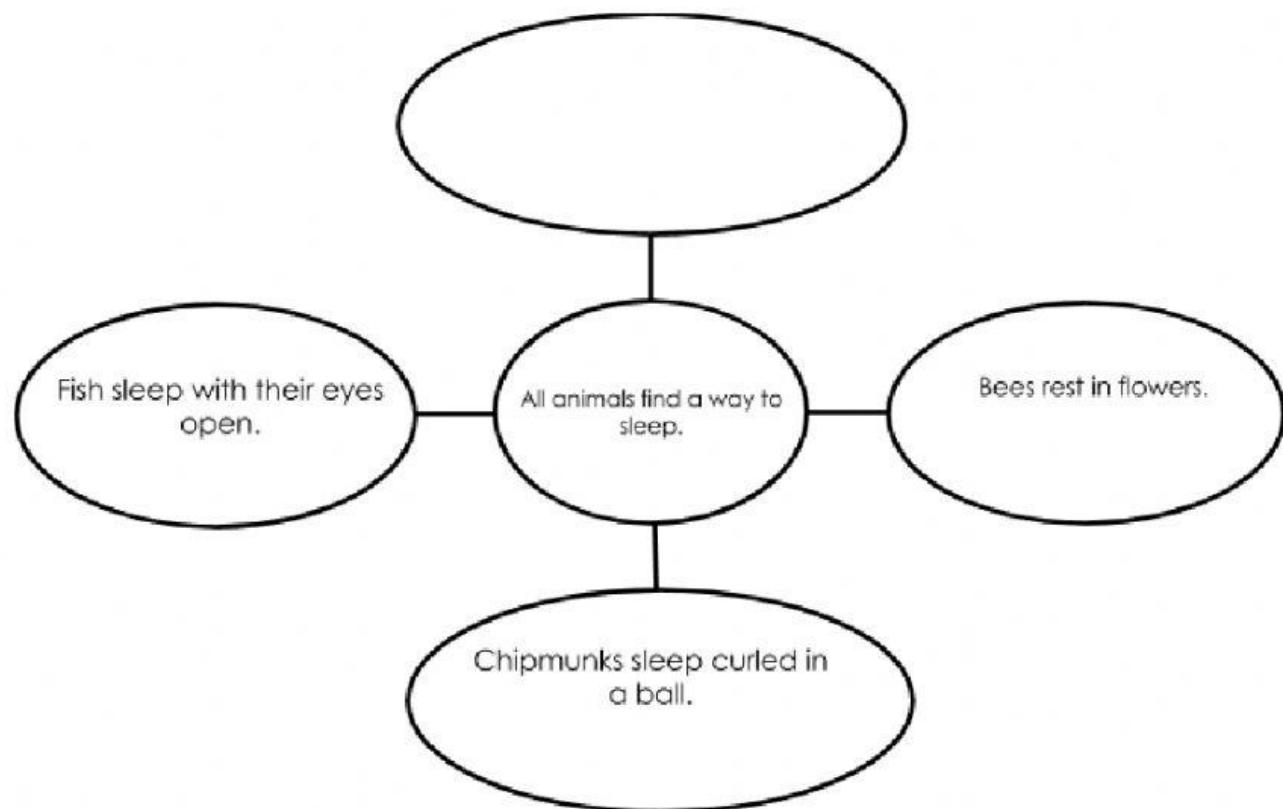
Lions sleep in the grass.

Some fish form bubbles around them.

Insects sleep under leaves.

Fish sleep in tunnels

5. Drag and drop the missing supporting detail into the web using information from the article "Good Night, Don't Bite".



People need a good night's rest.	There is nothing quite like falling asleep after a long day.	Animals live in different habitats.	Monkeys make leafy nests in trees.	People don't see animals when they sleep underground.
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