Name_____

Animals and Humans

Animal behavior is a fascinating study. Scientists divide animal behavior into categories that are similar to those we use to describe human behavior, such as diet and habitat. Scientists study the strategies animals use to hunt, capture, or forage for their food. They research the defenses animals use against predators and which animals prey on other animals. All of this helps us understand how animals can benefit us.

Each country or cultural group raises certain animals for food. In the United States, people mainly eat meat from cows, chickens, and pigs. In other countries, people might raise sheep or buffalo for meat. The differences arise in part from climate and other environmental factors. People around the world eat a variety of fish and shellfish from oceans and freshwater sources. In the United States, we don't always consider some animal groups as valid options for food as readily as others. For instance, you might not have thought about eating insects. But people in other countries regularly consume insects. Amphibians for dinner? In specific regions such as West Africa, yes.

Animals provide humans with more than food. They have been helping people with daily tasks for thousands of years. Horses, oxen, and other work animals pull loads. Harnessed, they can move machinery to do work such as grinding grain. Elephants, camels, and other animals transport people and goods from place to place. Carrier pigeons have been used to deliver messages.

People also receive companionship and other health benefits from animals. For instance, dogs and cats can have a calming effect on people. This is helpful for people fighting various diseases. Animals can also lower stress, making it easier for people to concentrate on learning new information, such as reading. When people interact with dogs or horses, it encourages exercise.

Animals and humans share space on Earth. Maintaining a healthy relationship with our fellow inhabitants is in our best interest.

Text Questions

1. Which of the following would be a good summary sentence for this text?
   a. We study animal behavior to help us learn how to find food.
   b. Animals provide us with food, work, and companionship.
   c. Animals make great companions for people.
   d. People and animals should learn to work together.

2. Why did the author include the information in the first paragraph?
   a. to summarize the passage
   b. to give details about how animals help us with work
   c. to explain why people eat animals
   d. to introduce the topic and provide an overview

3. What does the word *forage* mean as it is used in the text?
   a. to search for food
   b. to search for what you want
   c. to take food from others
   d. to provide with provisions

4. Which statement explains one way in which animals benefit people?
   a. We divide animal behavior into categories that are similar to those we use to describe human behavior.
   b. In the United States, we don't always consider some animal groups as valid options for food as readily as others.
   c. Animals have been helping people with daily tasks for thousands of years.
   d. Animals and humans share space on Earth.

5. What can studying animal behavior teach us about the world in which we live?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS