Warm-Up

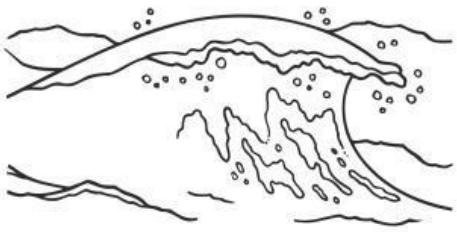
Name _____

**1** **The Big Wave**

The Amazon is a huge river. It is in South America. Sometimes, there are big waves in the Amazon. The tides cause the waves. The tides push ocean water into the river. The ocean water crashes into the river water. A big wave is made.

The big wave races back to the ocean. It makes a loud sound. People can hear the wave from far away. They can hear it long before they can see it.

Some people try to surf on the wave. It is very hard. The wave is big, fast, and powerful. The surfers are in danger. They have to watch for what is in the water. Big trees are in the water. Snakes are in the water.



## Find the Answers

**1.** The big wave is made when

a. snakes crash into river water.
b. surfers crash into river water.
c. big trees crash into river water.
d. ocean water crashes into river water.

**2.** Where is the Amazon River?

a. Asia
b. Antarctica
c. South America
d. North America

**3.** From the story, you can tell that some surfers

a. think the wave is small and weak.
b. ride the big wave.
c. catch the snakes.
d. collect the wood.

/3



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Warm-Up

Name _____

## 2 A Very Strange Meeting

A very strange meeting took place. The meeting took place in Manchester, England. It took place in 2005. It took place in the middle of the night. A man went to his bathroom. He met something. What did he meet? He met a ten-foot snake!

There had been other snake sightings in the area. Firefighters had checked pipes. They had used hi-tech equipment. Despite the hi-tech equipment, they had not found a thing. They did not really believe there was a snake slithering down sewage pipes.

But there was a snake! It was a boa constrictor. Boas live in South America, but this one had been a pet. It was named Keith. It had been on the loose for several months. It slithered down sewage pipes. It went from home to home. It was living on rats. Keith was finally trapped when he was coaxed into a bucket.

### Find the Answers

**1.** Most likely, you were *not* told right away who met what because the writer wanted you to be

a. mad.
b. sad.
c. sleepy.
d. surprised.

**2.** *Snake* is to *slither* as

a. *cow* is to *moo*.
b. *bird* is to *fly*.
c. *dog* is to *bark*.
d. *cat* is to *purr*.

**3.** What answer is true?

a. Boa constrictors eat rats.
b. Keith had been loose for several years.
c. Boa constrictors come from North America.
d. Keith was trapped using hi-tech equipment.

/3


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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Warm-Up

Name _____

## 3 The Biggest Country

There are a lot of countries in the world. There are almost two hundred. Some countries are big. Others are small. Some countries have a lot of people. Others have only a few people.

What is the biggest country? The biggest country is Russia. No other country in the world is as big as Russia. What country has the most people? China has the most people.

Russia is bigger. Almost two Chinas could fit in Russia. Why don't more people live in Russia? Not all land is good to live on. Many parts of Russia are very cold. People need to live where they can get enough food. They need to find work. They need to be able to make a living.

### Find the Answers

**1.** What answer might be the number of countries in the world?

a. 95
b. 195
c. 295
d. 395

**2.** What answer is true?

a. More people live in China than Russia.
b. More people live in Russia than China.
c. There is less land in Russia than China.
d. There is more land in China than Russia.

**3.** From the story, you can tell that people must

a. be warm.
b. have lots of land.
c. not live where it is cold.
d. be able to get enough food.

/3



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Warm-Up

Name _____

## 4 From Not Real to Real

Every year, there is a contest. It is a jumping contest. It is not for people. It is for frogs! The contest is held in California. It is held in Calaveras County.

People bring frogs from all over. Bullfrogs are the frog of choice. Frogs have to jump far to win. How far do they have to jump? One frog was named Rosie. Rosie jumped over twenty-one feet!

How did people come up with such a strange contest? It came from a short story! The story was written by Mark Twain. Twain wrote the story in 1865. It is fiction. It is a **tall tale** about life in a gold rush town. He called it "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." The story was fiction, but today the contest is real!




### Find the Answers

**1.** A **tall tale** is

a. real.
b. fiction.
c. a contest.
d. not for people.

**2.** What statement is true?

a. The story was written in 1860.
b. The story was written about Nevada.
c. The story was written by Rosie Twain.
d. The story was written about a gold rush town.

**3.** Another title for this story might be

a. "Jumping Contest."
b. "All About Frogs."
c. "The Farthest Jump."
d. "Tall Tales from the Gold Rush."

/3


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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Warm-Up

Name _____

## 5 Four Corners

Go to Hawaii. You can only stand in Hawaii. You cannot stand in another state at the same time. Go to Maine. You can stand on one or two states. You can stand on two states if you stand on Maine's border. You can stand in Maine and New Hampshire.

There are many places where you can stand in two states. There are places, too, where you can stand in three states.

There is only one place where you can stand in four states.

What four states can a person stand in at the same time? What four states have borders that touch? The states are Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. The corners of these four states all meet at one point in the Southwest.

### Find the Answers

**1.** Where is Arizona located?

a. the Southeast
b. the Northeast
c. the Northwest
d. the Southwest

**2.** Most likely, Hawaii is bordered by

a. water.
b. Colorado.
c. five other states.
d. land.

**3.** What answer lists four states that you can stand on at the same time?

a. New Mexico, Maine, Colorado, Utah
b. Arizona, Utah, New Jersey, Colorado
c. Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona
d. Colorado, New Mexico, Hawaii, Arizona

/3



LIVEWORKSHEETS