DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

THE OCTOPUS

The word *octopus* means eight feet. That is how the octopus got its name. The octopus is an animal that has eight arms that extend from the center. It eats small crabs and scallops along with fish, turtles, and crustaceans. It is even known to eat other octopuses. The octopus is able to catch its prey with its long arms. It then bites the prey and poisons it with a nerve poison. This poison softens the flesh and the octopus is then able to suck the flesh of the animal out of its shell or outer covering.

The octopus can mostly be found hunting during nighttime. Some people fear the octopus, but there is only one octopus that has been known to have a poison that is strong enough to kill a person. This is the Australian blue-ringed octopus.

Along with its eight arms, the octopus has a head with two eyes on either side. It has very good eyesight. The octopus does not have hearing. Each arm has suction cups in two rows. These suction cups help the octopus hold things. It is true that if the octopus loses an arm it will grow back. The octopus also has blue blood.

The octopus lives in dens and crevices of the ocean floor. This protects the octopus from its main predator, the moray eel. It also provides a place for the octopus to lay its eggs. The octopus can squirt black ink as a defense against its enemies.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading this passage, what can you infer about why the octopus would squirt black ink?
   a. The octopus is trying to show dominance.
   b. The octopus uses the ink to hide from its predators.
   c. The black ink brings good luck.
   d. The octopus squirts black ink to scare the predator.
2. This passage is mostly about . . .
   a. the description of and eating practices of the octopus.
   b. how an octopus eats.
   c. anatomy of the octopus.
   d. how the octopus defends itself.
3. What is the meaning of the word *extend* as used in the passage?
   a. ingest
   b. spread
   c. ignore
   d. arrange

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

TOUCAN

What do you know about the colorful bird called the toucan? Did you know that this bird comes from South America? It is found living in small flocks in the rain forest. This bird does not fly very well. It manages to get around by hopping from tree to tree. The toucan lives in holes in the tree. It makes a croaking sound.

The toucan has brightly colored feathers that are very light. The toucan has four toes on its feet. Two of the toes face frontward, and two of the toes face backwards. This helps the toucan grasp the branch of the tree easily and hold on. A large bill protrudes from the front of the toucan. The bill is larger than the toucan's head and is a third of the size of the toucan. The average toucan reaches 20 inches in length. The male toucan is a little bit larger than the female, but unlike many other birds, they have very similar coloration.

Living in the rain forest, the toucan eats mostly fruit but it also eats insects, bird eggs, and tree frogs. The fruit is eaten whole and then the toucan will regurgitate the seeds back up. This allows the seeds to continue growing in the rain forest.

The female toucan lays up to four eggs at a time. These eggs are laid in the holes of the trees where the toucans live. The male and female work together to incubate the eggs and care for the chicks.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A good title for this reading passage would be . . .
   a. "Toucan Paradise."
   b. "The Rain Forest's Bird."
   c. "All You Want to Know About the Toucan."
   d. "Illegal Killing of the Toucan."
2. The author wrote this passage to . . .
   a. justify keeping the toucan in captivity.
   b. inform the reader of how toucans are mistreated.
   c. share general information about the toucan.
   d. raise awareness of the shrinking numbers of toucans in the rain forest.
3. If you wanted to find out more about toucans, you could . . .
   a. read a book about how toucans eat.
   b. read a book about the animals of the rain forest.
   c. meet somebody that lives in South America.
   d. watch a television program about the rain forest.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

THE OCEAN FOOD CHAIN

Seafood is the term used to describe the food that humans eat, but what does the seafood eat? Just like all animal groups, ocean creatures follow a food chain. The food chain in the ocean begins with tiny floating plants. These plants are known as phytoplankton. These plants float around in the ocean water near the surface. You can't see these plants with the naked eye because they are so small.

Next in the ocean food chain is zooplankton. Zooplankton are very small animals. They are microscopic as well. Small fish, which travel in groups, eat the zooplankton. These fish swim together and eat zooplankton as they go.

Larger fish then eat these smaller fish. The tuna fish is an example of these larger fish. The tuna will eat the fish that swim in schools, or shoals. Humans then eat these larger fish. By eating seafood, you are actually part of the ocean food chain.

Humans aren't the only ones that eat these larger fish. Sharks and sea lions along with other sea creatures eat these fish. The killer whale is the top predator in the sea. It is the top predator because it is not eaten by anything. The baleen whale bypasses the food chain by feeding on the zooplankton directly. The scavengers of the sea also play a role in eating the leftovers and parts of fish and animals left on the sea floor. Crustaceans are examples of scavengers.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In the last paragraph, what does the word *scavengers* mean?
   a. meat eating
   b. foragers
   c. plant eating
   d. predators
2. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
   a. to describe the tuna fish
   b. to explain that larger fish eat the small fish in the food chain
   c. to describe the fish that are at the top of the food chain
   d. to explain the order of the ocean food chain
3. Based on information in the passage, how do baleen whales bypass the food chain?
   a. They hunt in groups.
   b. They eat the zooplankton directly.
   c. They smaller than most whales
   d. They are the top predator of the ocean.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

MOUNTAIN ANIMALS

Animals live in many different places. Some live in high places and some live in low places with a variety of terrain. Animals that live high on the mountaintop have learned to adapt in order to survive the harsh weather conditions. Temperatures in the high mountains can get very cold and the terrain is rugged with sparse plants and trees.

Many mountain animals have thick, furry coats and extra layers of fat to keep them warm. During the cold winter months, many of these animals hibernate. Hibernation is when the body temperature drops, the heartbeat slows down, and the body's fat reserves are slowly used up. Due to the low oxygen levels, many of these animals have larger hearts and lungs.

Animals that live in the mountaintops also have very thin blood. This allows them to breathe the thin mountain air and to breathe at very high altitudes.

Examples of high mountain dwellers are the llama and the vicuna found in the mountains of South America. Yaks use their long fur coat to keep them warm in the Himalayan Mountains. Cougars and bobcats can be found in the mountains of North America. Goats are quick-footed animals able to handle the rugged mountainous terrain. Scientists have found over 200 different types of animals that make their homes in the mountains.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In order for an animal to live in the high mountains it needs . . .
   a. courage.
   b. to be the right size.
   c. curved claws.
   d. to learn to adapt.
2. Why did the author include the first paragraph?
   a. to introduce the common characteristics of mountain dwellers
   b. to clear up misconceptions about animals that live on the mountain
   c. to generate questions about mountain animals
   d. to mention the terrain that exists high on the mountaintops
3. A good way to find the answer to the question just above this one is to . . .
   a. reread the entire passage.
   b. reread the first paragraph and determine the main idea.
   c. guess.
   d. skim the passage and look for clues.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 5

Name _____ Date _____

THE FLYING SQUIRREL

Have you ever heard of the squirrel that can fly? Actually the flying squirrel can't really fly, and it doesn't have wings. It actually glides from one place to another. Between the wrists and the legs, flying squirrels have membranes of skin that stretch out giving it the ability to glide pretty far distances. Their long flat tails also help guide where they are gliding or going.

The flying squirrel also has very thick, dense, soft fur. Flying squirrels are brown and white in color. Brown is on the back and the white is underneath.

These squirrels feed on fruit, nuts, insects, as well as the buds on trees. These squirrels store nuts and foods for consumption during the winter. Flying squirrels are nocturnal animals. They have big eyes which help them see at night. They build their homes in trees, deserted buildings, and birdhouses. Flying squirrels are sometimes mistaken for bats.

Flying squirrels are typically found in the forests of Canada. This social animal has strong maternal instincts. The principal enemies of the flying squirrel are the owl, the hawk, and the domestic cat. Flying squirrels seldom go down to the ground. Being on the ground makes them vulnerable to predators. Many times, the flying squirrel has been adopted as a pet. These pets are easy to care for and have cute, intelligent-looking faces. When the squirrel is made a pet at a young age, it is easy for the squirrel to form a strong attraction with humans.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about the flying squirrel?
   a. The author thinks the flying squirrel has been given a bad name.
   b. The author has been bitten by a flying squirrel.
   c. The author is afraid of flying squirrels.
   d. The author shares a matter of fact passage about the flying squirrel.
2. The second paragraph will instruct the reader on what . . .
   a. to do if they see a flying squirrel.
   b. to do if bitten by a flying squirrel.
   c. a flying squirrel looks like.
   d. a flying squirrel preys on.
3. Where might this information about flying squirrels most likely be found?
   a. on a website about flying squirrels
   b. on a cereal box
   c. in a book about rodents
   d. in a book about nocturnal animals

LIVEWORKSHEETS