

## Security Buzz



### The U.S. government trains bees to detect explosives

The next time there's a bomb scare, a swarm of bees might come to the rescue. Military scientists at the Stealthy Insect Sensor Project based in Los Alamos, New Mexico, have trained honeybees to alert authorities about explosives. The scientists hope bomb-sniffing bees will protect U.S. troops abroad and also be useful for homeland security.

"Bees are smelling machines," Tim Haarmann, a scientist with the project, told *WR News*. In nature, bees use their sense of smell to communicate with one another and to find nectar, the sweet liquid from flowers. Now trained bees are using that skill to detect the odor of dynamite and other explosives.

The scientists let the bees smell sugar water and explosives at the same time. A bee naturally reacts to the smell of sugar water by sticking out its proboscis (pruh-BAH-sis), or the tube it uses to feed on nectar. Then the scientists take away the sugar water, and the bees have the same reaction when they smell just the explosives.

The trained bees are put in tiny harnesses and placed in a box. Officials carry that box near the object they want to test. If the bees stick out their proboscises, officials know that a bomb is nearby. The bees can detect a car bomb 10 feet away! Haarmann says it takes one morning to train a hive of bees. The bees are set free, unharmed, after two days of bomb sniffing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the trained honeybees outfitted with?

- A. portable radios
- B. little helmets
- C. tiny harnesses
- D. safety vests

2. The passage describes how the scientists are training honeybees to solve a problem.

What problem are they trying to solve?

- A. Many U.S. farmers can't make enough honey.
- B. Military scientists need to find a way to make sugar.
- C. U.S. troops need help detecting explosives.
- D. U.S. soldiers are running out of dynamite and bombs.

3. After reading the passage, what can you conclude about honeybees?

- A. They don't like the taste of sugar.
- B. They have a great sense of smell.
- C. They really enjoy helping people.
- D. They can be trained to do anything.

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"The bees can detect a car bomb 10 feet away!"

In this sentence, the word **detect** means

- A. teach
- B. find
- C. cover
- D. break

5. Which statement best describes the main idea of this passage?

- A. All honeybees naturally react to the smell of sugar water.
- B. Some military scientists work at the Stealthy Insect Sensor Project.
- C. The U.S. government trained honeybees to detect explosives.
- D. Bees use their sense of smell to communicate with one another.

6. What is nectar?

7. After reading the passage, what can you conclude about how honeybees learn?  
Please give an example from the text to support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

A honeybee sticks out its proboscis \_\_\_\_\_ it feeds on nectar.

- A. however
- B. when
- C. but
- D. finally

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. After training, scientists use bees to sniff explosives for a period of
  - A. a week.
  - B. two days.
  - C. four days.
  - D. a month.
  
2. Why do the bees stick out their tubes to smell explosives even if there is no sugar water?
  - A. They have learned to drink explosives.
  - B. They associate the two smells.
  - C. They think it is food.
  - D. They are using the explosives to find nectar.
  
3. Why would using bees be an advantage in a military situation?
  - A. Bees are not noisy.
  - B. Bees can detect explosives as far away as ten feet.
  - C. Bees are small and would not attract attention.
  - D. All of the above.
  
4. What does "Bees are smelling machines," mean?
  - A. Bees are like humans because they also have a sense smell.
  - B. Trained bees warn of danger as dependably as machines.
  - C. A new machine has been developed.
  - D. Bees use their sense of smell to find a machine.
  
5. How can other animals be used to help people and warn them of danger?

## Informational Activity 1.2

### RACE Response

After reading the article, *Marine Species Increasingly Can't Live at Equator due to Global Heating*, write a RACE response paragraph answering the following question:

**How do you think the author feels about Global Warming based on the language and content of the article? Use direct text evidence in your response.**

Remember – RACE stands for:

R – Restate the question

A – Answer the question

C – Cite your evidence

E – Explain/Elaborate your evidence

# Marine species increasingly can't live at equator due to global heating

By Graham Readfearn, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.09.21

Word Count **585**

Level **890L**



Fishermen carry a basket of fresh fish from a boat to the market in Bali, Indonesia. Scientists say the fall in marine diversity around the equator could have profound consequences that are hard to predict. Photo: Sonny Tumbelaka/AFP via Getty Images

There are fewer kinds of fish in the ocean around the equator, according to a new study. The water is too hot for some species to survive, so they have moved away. A species is a group of similar living things that can mate and have babies.

Species migrating from the equator are influenced by global warming, which is also called climate change. It is the long-term heating of the Earth's climate. It is a man-made problem caused by the burning of natural fuels. Natural fuels include oil, gas and wood.

Professor David Schoeman co-wrote the study. He works at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. The research examined the changing locations of almost 50,000 marine species near the equator between 1955 and 2015. "These species haven't disappeared, they've just gone from the tropics," Schoeman said.

Schoeman said species from the ocean floor, where it is cooler, had not changed. However, the types of free-swimming species such as fish had dropped by a large number. Additionally, the

areas near the equator that fish were moving away from were growing.

### **Already Too Warm, And Getting Warmer**

The study examined some 7 million pieces of data covering almost 50,000 species. They included whales, jellyfish and corals.

The study did not try to assess if warming was causing extinctions. When a species is extinct, there are no more living members. Schoeman said this did not mean that extinctions were not happening.

The ocean has absorbed about 90 percent of global heating since the 1970s. It has been caused mainly by burning fossil fuels and the clearing of tropical forests. Schoeman said the warming was "becoming more intense." "We really need to be acting now," he said, "Climate change is with us."

In 2020, scientists warned that ocean heating could change global marine food systems. For example, if a species relocates due to rising temperatures, its predators will need to find new food. It could cause species numbers to decline.

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg is a marine biologist at the University of Queensland. Biologists study living things. Hoegh-Guldberg is an expert on how climate change is impacting oceans. They said it had long-been discussed that as waters near the equator got warmer, species would start to move out.

"These species are the only ones that can tolerate the warm waters in the ocean. If it gets too warm, there are no species to take their place," Hoegh-Guldberg said.

### **Tropical Species Not Ready For Change**

Hoegh-Guldberg, who was not involved in the study, said warming ocean waters would cause unexpected problems. For example, as species moved into a new area it would create a mix of species never seen before. This would cause more uncertainty for ecosystems.

Dr. Jodie Rummer is a scientist from James Cook University in Queensland. She said tropical species had limited ability to survive if the water temperature changed too much.

There were only three outcomes if the preferred temperature range of species started to shift, she said. Species could learn to live with it, move or die. Scientists were busy trying to understand how these options would play out across different species.

Rummer said understanding the effects of ocean heating was essential for the future of the world's fisheries. A lot of the fish we eat is caught off the coast of developing countries near the equator. Fish are very important to the "survival of millions of people," she said. They will have no way to earn money if the fish disappear.

## Quiz

1 Read the paragraph below from the section "Already Too Warm, And Getting Warmer."

*The study did not try to assess if warming was causing extinctions. When a species is extinct, there are no more living members. Schoeman said this did not mean that extinctions were not happening.*

Which of these statements is an accurate explanation of what this paragraph means?

- (A) Because David Schoeman found examples of extinctions, he decided to focus his study on it.
- (B) Because David Schoeman did not think extinctions were happening, he decided not to study it.
- (C) Even though David Schoeman did not focus on extinctions in his study, he still thinks it could be happening.
- (D) Even though David Schoeman did not want to study extinctions, he found many examples of it happening.

2 Read the following paragraph from the section "Tropical Species Not Ready For Change."

Select the sentence from the section that shows a problem for humans that changes in tropical species can cause.

- (A) For example, as species moved into a new area it would create a mix of species never seen before.
- (B) Species could learn to live with it, move or die.
- (C) Scientists were busy trying to understand how these options would play out across different species.
- (D) They will have no way to earn money if the fish disappear.

3 Read the following selection from the Introduction [paragraphs 1-4].

*There are fewer kinds of fish in the ocean around the equator, according to a new study. The water is too hot for some species to survive, so they have moved away. A species is a group of similar living things that can mate and have babies.*

Species migrating from the equator are influenced by global warming, which is also called climate change. It is the long-term heating of the Earth's climate. It is a man-made problem caused by the burning of natural fuels. Natural fuels include oil, gas and wood.

Which phrase from the selection helps the reader to understand the meaning of "migrating"?

- (A) have moved away
- (B) mate and have babies
- (C) long-term heating
- (D) a man-made problem

Read the paragraph below from the section "Already Too Warm, And Getting Warmer."

*"These species are the only ones that can tolerate the warm waters in the ocean. If it gets too warm, there are no species to take their place," Hoegh-Guldberg said.*

What is the meaning of the word "tolerate" as it is used in the paragraph?

- (A) change
- (B) help
- (C) leave
- (D) stand

## A Museum of Their Own



World Almanac for Kids

*Willie Mays and Roy Campanella started out in the Negro Leagues and followed Jackie Robinson into the majors.*

When the baseball that Leroy "Satchel" Paige and Josh Gibson autographed went up for sale several years ago, the staff at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum wanted to get their mitts on it.

And why wouldn't they? On the ball were the signatures of two of the greatest players in Negro Leagues history—in all of baseball history, for that matter.

But the small museum, devoted to telling the story of the Negro Leagues, struck out. The round relic fetched \$30,000, more than the museum's yearly budget to buy such items.

Now, though, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is about to hit a home run. Officials have unveiled an ambitious \$15 million project to expand the organization's collection and exhibition space.

The museum plans to buy an old building up the street from the current museum and to turn it into a library and research center. The vacant building is an old YMCA where the first Negro League was born. The building served the black community of Kansas City, Missouri, for decades.

"It was a place where people could go and get something to eat and not worry about segregation," Ray Doswell, the museum's curator, told *Weekly Reader Senior Edition*. "It's also where the Negro National League was founded."

## First Negro League

Why did African Americans need a league of their own? They had to form their own leagues because they weren't allowed to play with white ballplayers.

The first Negro League got its start in 1920. That's when Andrew Rube Foster, a pitcher with the 1902 Cuban X-Giants and the Chicago Union Giants, decided that black players needed a baseball league.

Foster met with a group of African Americans at the YMCA in Kansas City. There they formed the Negro National League. The league flourished for a decade. "It is your league," Foster told fellow

African Americans. "Nurse it! Help it! Keep it!"

African Americans soon began playing in other Negro Leagues around the country. Traveling from town to town was a hard life for many. Because hotels in many cities did not allow blacks inside, the players slept on buses, in stadiums and along the sides of roads.

More often than not, the players had to face ethnic slurs and taunts. "Out on the field, there'd be some white folks in the stands," Satchel Paige wrote in his autobiography. "Some of them'd call you [hateful names], but most would cheer you."



Library of Congress

*Jackie Robinson integrated baseball by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.*

In 1947, black players finally got their shot in the majors. That's when Jackie Robinson, a veteran of the Negro Leagues, integrated baseball by playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

## Great Ballplayers

Many Negro League players became baseball's best. Henry Aaron, who played for several major-league teams, including the Atlanta Braves, began his career slugging home runs for the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League. In 1974, he broke "Babe" Ruth's all-time home-run mark.

James "Cool Papa" Bell was one of the fastest men in baseball. During his career, he stole 173 bases. Paige used to say Bell was so quick that he could flip off a light switch in the bedroom and be across the room under the covers before the light went out.

Then there was Paige himself. After two decades in the Negro Leagues, Paige helped the Cleveland Indians win the American League pennant in 1948. At the time, Paige was a 42-year-old major-league "rookie" pitcher.

## Unique History

The new research center at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum will give the public a chance to learn more about those players and hundreds of others who toiled in baseball obscurity.

There will be interactive exhibits and computers as well as memorabilia. The museum is already home to dozens of bats, balls, and uniforms and hundreds of photographs.

"There's a connection between baseball and African American history," Doswell told *Weekly Reader Senior Edition*. "We want to show young people what these guys went through just to play baseball. Many of these guys worked in the iron mills or on railroads until game time."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, when did the first Negro League start?

- A. in 1902
- B. in 1920
- C. in 1947
- D. in 1948

2. In the text, the small museum can't afford to purchase an expensive autographed baseball. How is the problem solved?

- A. Visitors will be charged more to enter the museum.
- B. A \$15 million project will help the museum grow its collection.
- C. The museum will no longer include autographed baseballs in its collection.
- D. The baseball will be donated to the museum.

3. Read these two paragraphs from the text.

African Americans soon began playing in other Negro Leagues around the country. Traveling from town to town was a hard life for many. Because hotels in many cities did not allow blacks inside, the players slept on buses, in stadiums and along the sides of roads.

More often than not, the players had to face ethnic slurs and taunts. "Out on the field, there'd be some white folks in the stands," Satchel Paige wrote in his autobiography. "Some of them'd call you [hateful names], but most would cheer you."

What can you conclude about the Negro Leagues?

- A. Players in the Negro Leagues were always welcome on the field.
- B. Teams in the Negro Leagues played white baseball teams.
- C. Players in the Negro Leagues faced discrimination while playing baseball.
- D. Teams in the Negro Leagues were eventually allowed in hotels.

**4.** Read these sentences from the text.

Now, though, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is about to hit a home run. Officials have unveiled an ambitious \$15 million project to expand the organization's collection and exhibition space.

What does the author mean by stating that "the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is about to hit a home run"?

- A. Many African American players were famous home-run hitters.
- B. The museum is enlarging its collection and adding space.
- C. The old YMCA building is part of the Negro Leagues' history.
- D. Many African Americans in baseball once faced segregation.

**5.** What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Some of baseball's best players were in the Negro League.
- B. The Negro League began in 1920 because African Americans weren't allowed to play with white baseball players.
- C. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is expanding to better tell the story of African Americans in baseball.
- D. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is home to many different kinds of memorabilia.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

The vacant building is an old YMCA where the first Negro League was born. The building served the black community of Kansas City, Missouri, for decades.

As used in these sentences, what does the word "**vacant**" mean?

- A. occupied
- B. dirty
- C. blank
- D. empty

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ of remaining unused, the YMCA building will now be part of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

- A. Yet
- B. But
- C. Otherwise
- D. Instead

8. Based on the text, why is Henry Aaron included in the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum?

9. What important effect did Jackie Robinson have on African Americans in baseball? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The museum staff is probably excited about its new building, because
  - A. it will have room to display the autographed baseball.
  - B. it got \$15 million to buy the building.
  - C. it is the exact building where Negro Leagues began.
  - D. the vacant building was once a YMCA.
  
2. Examples of figurative language in this passage include all the following except
  - A. black players finally got their shot in the majors.
  - B. Nurse it!
  - C. the vacant building is an old YMCA.
  - D. the small museum struck out.
  
3. The reason African Americans were not allowed to play with white players was
  - A. they weren't as athletic as white players.
  - B. that there were too few hotels that they could stay in.
  - C. that they were too old.
  - D. due to the practice of segregation.
  
4. After baseball became integrated, which of the following records were made:
  - A. Satchel Paige was probably the oldest major-league rookie.
  - B. "Cool Papa" Bell stole 173 bases.
  - C. Henry Aaron broke Babe Ruth's homerun record.
  - D. all of the above
  
5. Why would it be difficult to play baseball if after working in the iron mills or on railroads until game time?

# Who invented chocolate chip cookies, popsicles and Coca-Cola?

By Cricket Media, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.24.21

Word Count **798**

Level **830L**



Image 1. Did you know the chocolate chip cookie was invented by accident? Photo: Esther Chou/Getty Images

New foods can be invented in many ways. Some are discovered by accident. Others result from lots of experimenting. Keep reading to learn how a few of America's most popular food products were invented.

## **Chocolate Chip Cookies**

In 1930, a couple named Ruth and Kenneth Wakefield opened a restaurant on a toll road between Boston and Cape Cod in Massachusetts. On a toll road, drivers have to pay a small fee to travel on that road. The Wakefields named their restaurant the Toll House Inn. Ruth Wakefield was an expert chef. The inn became famous for its desserts.

Wakefield liked to try new recipes for her guests. One time, she decided to cut a chocolate bar into pieces and add the bits of chocolate to her popular butterscotch cookies. The chocolate melted enough to make gooey chunks. Guests loved Wakefield's new cookies. She called them "Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookies."

Soon, Wakefield's recipe appeared in a Boston newspaper. Wakefield also added the recipe to her cookbook. The recipe called for two Nestlé semi-sweet chocolate bars cut into pieces the size of a pea. Nestlé is a food and drinks company known for its chocolate.

The recipe was so popular that Nestlé's sales increased. The company was selling more and more chocolate bars. Nestlé even added lines to the chocolate bars to make them easier to break into pieces.

Later, Nestlé began making chocolate chips. Wakefield's chocolate chip cookie recipe can still be found on every bag of Nestlé chocolate chips.

## Coca-Cola

Dr. John S. Pemberton was a pharmacist in Atlanta, Georgia. A pharmacist is a person who prepares medicines. In 1886, Pemberton was experimenting with a new kind of medicine. He wanted to make a syrup that would treat headaches. He mixed together sugar, water, caffeine, oils and other ingredients. The syrup included parts of a plant called the coca plant and a nut called the kola nut. Pemberton decided to call his sticky brown syrup Coca-Cola.

Pemberton first tried to sell Coca-Cola as a medicine. He asked a pharmacist in Atlanta to mix the syrup with water and sell it as a treatment for headaches and tiredness. People who tried the syrup liked the taste. Once, carbonated water was added to the syrup by accident. This bubbly water made the syrup taste even better.

Pemberton died in 1888. Soon after, a man named Asa G. Candler took ownership of the Coca-Cola recipe. Before long Candler had opened the Coca-Cola company and was selling Coca-Cola all over the United States. Today people drink it all around the world.



## Popsicle

Frozen treats have existed for hundreds of years. However, Frank Epperson was the first person to put a frozen treat on a stick. In 1905, when Epperson was 11 years old, he used a wood stick to mix a fruit-flavored soda powder with water in a glass. Later, he left the glass with the juice outside by accident.

When he went back for the glass the next morning, he realized that the cold weather during the night had caused the drink to freeze with the stick in it. He pulled the stick out of the glass and licked the ice attached to it. Yum! He called it an Epsicle, short for Epperson's icicle.

Epperson began making the frozen treats for his children, who called them "Pop's 'sicles." The treats were so popular Epperson started selling them at theme parks and events. Epperson's business continued to grow. Today, billions of Popsicles are sold every year!

## Life Savers

In 1911, Clarence Crane started a chocolate company in Cleveland, Ohio. However, Crane had a hard time selling his chocolate in the summer. The chocolate melted quickly in the heat. He decided to make hard candies instead.

One day, Crane noticed how pharmacists used a machine to make round, flat pills. He wondered if he could use the same machine to make peppermints. When he tried, it worked!

Crane decided to put a hole in the center of his mints. He thought the rings looked like life



preservers, the large floating rings you see on boats. So Crane decided to call his candy Pep-O-Mint Life Savers. Today, they are just known as Life Savers, and they come in many different flavors. Life Savers are still one of the top candies in America.



## Quiz

- 1 What is the relationship between Ruth Wakefield's chocolate chip cookie recipe and Nestlé?
- (A) The recipe caused the company's sales to go down, but the company did better after buying the recipe.
  - (B) The recipe hurt the company's sales and the company had a hard time selling its chocolate chips.
  - (C) The recipe made the company's sales increase, but the company started taking business away from Ruth Wakefield.
  - (D) The recipe boosted the company's sales and the company put the recipe on its chocolate chip bags.
- 2 What caused Popsicles to get their name?
- (A) Frank Epperson wanted to name them after his own pop because he made them when he was 11.
  - (B) Frank Epperson combined the word "icicle" with his name and shortened it to make it catchy.
  - (C) Frank Epperson's own children started calling them that when he made the frozen treats for them.
  - (D) Frank Epperson's customers from theme parks and events came up with the name over the years.
- 3 Read the section "Coca-Cola."
- Which sentence shows the author's point of view about the accidental ingredient that was added to John Pemberton's Coca-Cola?
- (A) He mixed together sugar, water, caffeine, oils and other ingredients.
  - (B) The syrup included parts of a plant called the coca plant and a nut called the kola nut.
  - (C) He asked a pharmacist in Atlanta to mix the syrup with water and sell it as a treatment for headaches and tiredness.
  - (D) This bubbly water made the syrup taste even better.
- 4 What does the author want the reader to understand about Life Savers?
- (A) They are very popular candies that are the result of experimenting with different ideas.
  - (B) They are yummy candies that are the result of Clarence Crane making them by mistake one day.
  - (C) They are well-known candies today, but Clarence Crane used to have trouble getting people to buy them.
  - (D) They are sweet candies, but they used to be tastier when they were made out of peppermints.

## Informational Activity 1.4

### Cite Evidence

After reading the article, *Who Invented Chocolate-Chip Cookies, Popsicles, and Coca-Cola?*, answer the following questions:

1. After answering question 1 from the article, cite direct text evidence that helped you answer the question.
2. After answering question 2 from the article, cite direct text evidence that helped you answer the question.
3. After answering question 3 from the article, cite direct text evidence that helped you answer the question.
4. After answering question 4 from the article, cite direct text evidence that helped you answer the question.

## A Tricky Move



National Park Service

*The Liberty Bell no longer rings today. During the move, wireless technology was attached to the bell.*

If you think moving a piano is tricky, try moving the 2,080-pound Liberty Bell. The bell, one of America's most enduring symbols of freedom, had to be moved from its second home at Liberty Hall Pavilion in Philadelphia to a new building down the street.

Why the change of address? The National Park Service built a new center for the Liberty Bell.

Movers wanted to make sure that no additional harm was done to the bell's famous crack. During the move, scientists attached tiny sensors to the mostly copper bell. The sensors would sound an alarm if the bell's famous crack got bigger. "The bell is fragile because of the way it was [made]," said one scientist.

This wasn't the first time the Liberty Bell was moved. From 1885 to 1915, the Liberty Bell traveled across the country, visiting more than 400 cities and towns, including Chicago, New Orleans, and St. Louis.

Workers also moved the Liberty Bell in 1976, when it was taken from Independence Hall to the Liberty Hall Pavilion.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which city is home to the Liberty Bell?

- A. Philadelphia
- B. New Orleans
- C. Chicago
- D. New York

2. The National Park Service built a new center for the Liberty Bell. The problem was that workers had to make sure that the bell's crack was not harmed during the move. How was that problem solved?

- A. Sensors were attached to the bell and would sound an alarm if the crack got bigger.
- B. Scientists used superglue to seal the edges of the bell's crack during the move.
- C. The bell was carefully taken apart before the move and then put back together again.
- D. Workers wrapped the bell in many layers of bubble wrap and tissue paper.

3. Which of the following conclusions about the Liberty Bell is supported by the passage?

- A. The Liberty Bell is difficult to move.
- B. Scientists are trying to figure out how to fix the bell's crack.
- C. The Liberty Bell will ring once a day at the new location.
- D. Many workers have dropped the Liberty Bell.

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"The bell is fragile because of the way it was [made],' said one scientist."

Based on the text, the word **fragile** means

- A. noisy
- B. strange
- C. wonderful
- D. delicate

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A. how workers moved the Liberty Bell without damaging its crack
- B. how the Liberty Bell traveled across the country from 1885 to 1915
- C. how scientists are using wireless technology to move large objects
- D. how the Liberty Bell got the crack that made it famous

6. What was the home of the Liberty Bell in 1976?

7. Why is the Liberty Bell important? How do you know? Give specific examples from the article that support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Scientists attached tiny sensors to the bell \_\_\_\_\_ no additional harm would come to the bell's crack.

- A. because
- B. instead
- C. so
- D. for

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The bell was moved from Independence Hall to the Liberty Hall Pavilion and later to the new center built by the National Park Service, probably in order to

- A. make it more convenient for more tourists to enjoy.
- B. give it better security protection.
- C. get a bigger display space around it.
- D. all of the above.

2. We can assume that if the sensors had sounded an alarm during the moving of the Liberty Bell,

- A. the bell would have to be replaced.
- B. the bell would have been moved to a different place.
- C. the movers would have checked the bell's condition.
- D. the bell would have broken in two.

3. The reason the bell traveled for 30 years all across the U.S. was

- A. to repair its large crack.
- B. to inspire pride and patriotism.
- C. to keep it from being destroyed.
- D. to earn money for its upkeep.

4. The huge bell can be easily damaged because of

- A. its age.
- B. the difficulty of finding heavy moving equipment.
- C. the metal it was made of.
- D. the way it was made.

5. Why do you think the author began the passage by comparing the bell to moving a piano?

# Heavy Metal



## Trashed Technology Is Turning Into a High-Tech Hazard

A delivery has just arrived, and you open the box for the newest tech for your house—a bigger, thinner TV. You and your family can't wait to watch some of your favorite shows on it, but first you have to get rid of the old TV. Do you just toss the TV in the trash?

You can't in a lot of places.

More than 20 states have passed laws prohibiting people from throwing away electronic waste with regular garbage. Electronic waste, or e-waste, includes televisions, computers, and cell phones.

Although high-tech gadgets don't make you sick when you use them, they might when they are destroyed at the dump. Some e-waste contains heavy metals that can be harmful to humans.

Cell phone batteries contain a chemical called cadmium that can cause damage to kidneys. Some computer monitors contain lead, which can cause brain damage. Many flat screen TVs are made with mercury, which may cause injury to the nervous system. The nervous system controls body activities, and it includes the brain, spinal cord, and nerves. Those metals may also leak toxins into the ground or give off pollutants when burned.

When Reed Gusciora was serving in the New Jersey General Assembly, he told reporters for the Passaic County *Herald News*, "The chemicals inside some of these electronics read like a who's who of the periodic table of elements."

The legislation requires e-waste to be dumped at hazardous, or dangerous, waste disposal sites rather than in landfills. More states may pass similar laws.

Legislators aren't the only people taking aim at e-waste. Environmentalists are urging people to recycle their outdated equipment.

"It's just a waste ... to not recycle," Patrick O'Shaughnessy, a professor of occupational and environmental health at the University of Iowa, told *The Daily Iowan*. "Allowing dangerous [chemicals] to leach into the environment for decades seems irresponsible."

## What Can You Do?

**Reduce.** Be a responsible shopper, and take care of your electronics so that they last longer.

**Reuse.** Donate or sell your old high-tech gadgets. Schools and community centers often accept donations of electronic equipment.

**Recycle.** To find a responsible recycler, contact a local or state environmental group.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, what have more than 20 states passed laws prohibiting people from doing?

- A. throwing away electronic waste at hazardous waste disposal sites
- B. throwing away electronic waste with regular garbage
- C. using hazardous chemicals to make high-tech gadgets
- D. donating old high-tech gadgets to schools and community centers

2. Read these sentences from the text.

Although high-tech gadgets don't make you sick when you use them, they might when they are destroyed at the dump.

[. . .]

The new legislation requires e-waste to be dumped at hazardous, or dangerous, waste disposal sites rather than landfills.

What is the relationship between these two sentences?

- A. The sentences make a comparison for two different topics.
- B. The sentences persuade you to think a certain way.
- C. The sentences show a sequence of events for a specific topic.
- D. The sentences describe a problem and its solution.

3. Many states passed laws prohibiting people from throwing away e-waste in the regular garbage because they want people to safely dispose of e-waste elements.

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A. "Many flat screen TVs are made with mercury, which may cause injury to the nervous system."
- B. "Although high-tech gadgets don't make you sick when you use them, they might when they are destroyed at the dump."
- C. "The legislation requires e-waste to be dumped at hazardous, or dangerous, waste disposal sites rather than in landfills."
- D. "Legislators aren't the only people taking aim at e-waste. Environmentalists are urging people to recycle their outdated equipment."

**4.** Read these sentences from the text.

The legislation requires e-waste to be dumped at hazardous, or dangerous, waste disposal sites rather than in landfills. More states may pass similar laws.

Legislators aren't the only people taking aim at e-waste. Environmentalists are urging people to recycle their outdated equipment.

Based on the text, how many ways can people get rid of their old high-tech gadgets?

- A. There is only one way, which involves people dumping the gadgets in the garbage that go to landfills.
- B. There is only one way, which involves people dumping the gadgets at hazardous waste disposal sites.
- C. There is only one way as encouraged by environmentalists, which involves people recycling the gadgets.
- D. There is more than one way, including dumping the gadgets at hazardous waste disposal sites and recycling them.

**5.** What is the main idea of the text?

- A. States have passed laws making sure people dump e-waste at special disposal sites instead of the regular garbage because much e-waste contains metals harmful to humans.
- B. Televisions, computers, and cell phones that people throw away are called electronic waste, and many of them contain heavy metals that can harm humans.
- C. Mercury can be found in many flat screen TVs, and it may cause harm to the nervous system, which includes the brain, spinal cord, and nerves.
- D. Schools and community centers often accept donations of electronics, so old high-tech gadgets can be reused when people donate them to these places.

6. Read this sentence from the text.

Legislators aren't the only people taking **aim** at e-waste.

In this sentence, what does the word "**aim**" mean?

- A. freeze
- B. lift up
- C. direct
- D. donate

7. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ high-tech items are great to own, you need to think about where you dispose them, making sure they go to a hazardous waste disposal site.

- A. After
- B. From
- C. Although
- D. So

8. According to the text, where does the e-waste legislation require e-waste to be dumped?

9. Based on the text, how can old high-tech gadgets be reused?

10. In states with laws prohibiting people from throwing away e-waste with regular garbage, what can people do with their old TVs? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Electronic waste includes televisions, computers, and cell phones.
- B. Electronic waste that is not properly thrown out can be harmful to humans.
- C. In many states, it is against the law to dump hazardous waste in landfills.
- D. The mercury in flat screen TVs may cause injury to the nervous system.

2. What is the main idea of the section titled "What Can You Do"?

- A. Reusing and recycling electronics can decrease pollution.
- B. Electronic waste can have harmful effects on humans.
- C. Hazardous materials come from electronics.
- D. People should reduce, reuse, and recycle electronics.

3. Based on the text, how might electronic waste thrown out in landfills impact the nearby environment?

- A. It might increase the number of animals living in the environment.
- B. It might reduce the level of toxins in the ground of the environment.
- C. It might pollute the environment.
- D. It might reduce pollution in the environment.

4. Mercury can injure the nervous system. According to the text, what does the nervous system do?

- A. The nervous system digests food.
- B. The nervous system circulates blood.
- C. The nervous system controls body activities.
- D. The nervous system fights diseases.

5. Select a detail from the text and explain how it supports the main idea.

## Pete vs. the Python

Some dogs track criminals. Other dogs sniff out quail. In Florida, National Park Service officials are training a beagle puppy, nicknamed "Python Pete," to locate 15-foot pythons.



Photos.com

*"Python Pete" is being trained to track pythons, such as this one.*

For years, Burmese pythons, which are not native to Florida, have been threatening to overrun Everglades National Park. Exotic pet owners introduced the reptiles to the region by dumping them in the forests of southern Florida.

The beasts have been multiplying quickly, eating native mangrove, fox squirrels, wood storks, and other wildlife. National Park Service officials removed 52 Burmese pythons from the park from the mid-1990s through 2003. In 2004, they captured 61 pythons.

That's where "Python Pete" comes in. The dog's owner, Lori Oberhofer, who works for the National Park Service, has been training Pete to track pythons and to bark when he spots one. Park officials would then spring into action, capturing and removing the reptile. Oberhofer got the idea after reading about Jack Russell terriers that detect brown tree snakes in cargo at an airport in Guam, an island in the South Pacific. "I figured that if a terrier could be trained to sniff out brown tree snakes, then perhaps a beagle could be trained to sniff out pythons," Oberhofer told *National Geographic News*.

Twice a week, Oberhofer puts a live python in a bag and drags it through a field. She then drops the bag and Pete's favorite rope toy. Oberhofer hooks Pete up to a special harness so he knows that it's time to find a snake. "He continues to show improvement each time I take him out to train," she said. "It hasn't taken him long to figure out that smelling a python means playtime for him."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What kind of dog is "Python Pete"?

- A. bulldog
- B. Jack Russell terrier
- C. golden retriever
- D. beagle

2. The passage describes the problem of Burmese pythons threatening to overrun Everglades National Park. How is Lori Oberhofer trying to solve the problem?

- A. She is planning to teach dogs how to scare the pythons out of the park.
- B. She is training her dog to track pythons so that they can be removed.
- C. She is working with pet owners to stop them from buying pythons.
- D. She is trying to catch the pythons and ship them to Guam.

3. After reading the passage, what can you conclude about Burmese pythons?

- A. They can be trained to get along well with dogs.
- B. They are causing an increase in the number of tourists.
- C. They prefer living in Florida to anywhere else.
- D. They are having a negative impact on Florida's wildlife.

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"Oberhofer got the idea after reading about Jack Russell terriers that detect brown tree snakes in cargo at an airport in Guam, an island in the South Pacific."

In this sentence, the word **detect** means

- A. to lose sight of a goal
- B. to teach an animal new tricks
- C. to discover the presence of
- D. to reward for good behavior

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe
- A. why pet owners decide to buy Burmese pythons and other exotic pets
  - B. things to see and do when visiting Florida's Everglades National Park
  - C. what kinds of dogs can be easily trained to track pythons and other snakes
  - D. how Florida's National Park officials are trying to solve a python problem
6. How many Burmese pythons did park official capture in 2004?
7. Why, do you think, have exotic pet owners been dumping Burmese pythons in the forests of southern Florida? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ Florida, officials are working to remove Burmese pythons from the park.

- A. Before
- B. For
- C. However
- D. In

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The main idea of the passage is that
  - A. park officials have captured over 100 pythons.
  - B. "Python Pete" plays with the snakes.
  - C. a park service worker trains her dog to look for pythons.
  - D. dogs are sniffing out quails.
  
2. The main idea of the second and third paragraphs is that
  - A. pythons have multiplied by eating wildlife.
  - B. Lori Oberhofer got her idea from Jack Russell terriers.
  - C. Everglades National Park has too many pythons.
  - D. the beagle tracks the pythons by smell.
  
3. When the park officials "spring into action," they
  - A. begin work when warm weather comes.
  - B. move quickly to start working.
  - C. begin to work with "Python Pete".
  - D. dump the pythons into the forests.
  
4. The beagle is learning to follow a python scent because
  - A. by following it, he will find his favorite toy.
  - B. he likes the pythons.
  - C. he wants to please his owner.
  - D. he wants to be like a Jack Russell terrier.
  
5. List one detail that supports the main idea. Explain how it supports the main idea.



# Ecosystem superheroes: Sea otters help keep coastal waters in check

By The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.14.19

Word Count **911**

Level **810L**



Image 1. A sea otter family. Photo by: Verlisia via Getty Images

James Estes is an American marine biologist. He has studied wildlife in the North Pacific Ocean for the past 45 years. During that time, he has showed how predators can change their environments.

Ecosystems are made up of many organisms. They have complex relationships with each other. A trophic cascade is when a top predator is added or removed from an ecosystem. This changes the population of its prey and other organisms.

Trophic cascades are a powerful and important force. They shape the natural history of our planet. Yet human activity is continuing to impact wildlife populations. We are creating trophic cascades with unexpected consequences. Estes knows this first hand after studying sea otter populations in the north Pacific.

## Sea Otters Were Once Hunted For Their Fur

Estes has spent most of his working life in the isolated Aleutian Islands. They stretch across the North Pacific Ocean from Alaska to the coast of eastern Russia.

The islands might seem isolated. But humans have had an influence. Beginning about 200 years ago, hunters moved into the Aleutians looking for sea otters pelts. The animals once thrived there. Back then, there were hundreds of thousands of otters.

The sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*) is a member of the weasel family. It stays warm in the water because it has the densest fur in the animal kingdom. There are about 850,000 to a million hairs per square inch. This keeps otters insulated from the cold.

However, the sea otter's thick, rich pelt also made it a major target for fur hunters. By the 1900s, hunters had brought the animal close to extinction. Only about a dozen colonies survived. Then, came an international ban on sea otter hunting. This saved the animal from extinction.

### Studying Sea Otter Habitat

Sea otters have a massive appetite. An adult animal needs to consume vast amounts of food to survive. It needs to eat about a quarter of its own body weight every day. This could be up to 11 kilograms (24 pounds) of food.

Sea otters mainly eat sea urchins. They also eat crabs and other shellfish. Otters open these sea creatures with flat stones.

Estes wanted to know what happened to the ecosystem after sea otter populations declined. So he began studying the sea floors around islands where sea otters had survived. He also studied areas where they had disappeared.

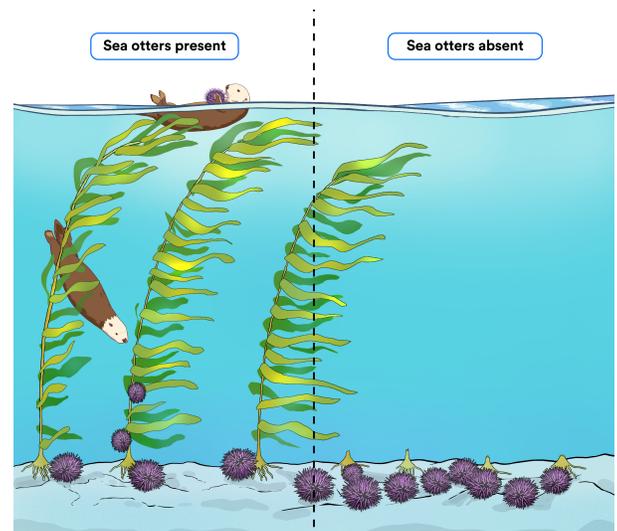
Islands without sea otters had huge urchins that littered the barren seafloor. The underwater forests of kelp that once grew there had disappeared. The urchins consumed every kelp plant in sight. "Our results were eye-opening," he says.

By contrast, kelp flourished on nearby islands where sea otters survived or had been reintroduced. Estes found similar results elsewhere. Islands with sea otters had healthy kelp forests. Islands without otters had barren sea floors littered with sea urchins and no kelp.

In removing sea otters from the north Pacific, humans had endangered the species. They also disrupted a large chunk of the Pacific marine environment.

### The Keepers Of Kelp Forests

Sea otters are a keystone species. These are important species that ecosystems depend on. Sea otters keep the kelp forest ecosystem healthy. This helps local species, as kelp forests support fish, mussels and microorganisms.



Kelp forests also help the global environment. More and more carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere. This causes an increase in global temperatures. Carbon dioxide is also absorbed by the ocean, making it more acidic. This harms many species. Yet kelp forests use carbon dioxide to make their own food in a process called photosynthesis. Estes has calculated that healthy kelp forests have the capacity to absorb billions of kilograms of carbon.

### **Sea Otter Numbers And Threat Of Killer Whales**

Fortunately sea otters were saved from extinction. Or at least it seemed that way in the 1980s and 1990s. Then Estes made a second disturbing discovery. He returned to the Aleutian islands of Adak and Amchitka. There, sea otter numbers had been steadily rising. But now he found their populations were dwindling.

Estes looked elsewhere in the same chain of islands. He found that some sites still had healthy populations. They included the islands of Clam Lagoon on Adak. However, most others showed population declines. He calculated that about 40,000 sea otters had disappeared in a few years. And when sea otter numbers dropped, urchins reappeared. Kelp forests began to disappear again.

Estes and another scientist, Tim Tinker, determined that killer whales were eating sea otters. Estes looked at the history of other species in the region. He discovered that when killer whale populations targeted an animal species, the population dropped. This happened with sea otters in the 1990s. It happened with seals and sea lions in the 1970s and 1980s. Why?

Estes determined that commercial whaling after the second world war was the cause. Before commercial whaling, killer whales fed on great whales of the North Pacific and southern Bering Sea, says Estes. By the time commercial whaling stopped, there were virtually no great whales left for killer whales to eat. So, they expanded their diet first to seals, sea lions and sea otters.

With the addition of killer whales, it seems a new top predator has appeared in the ecosystem. This shows how viewing the food web from the top to the bottom allows us to better understand nature and its complex relationships.

## Quiz

- 1 Which is an example of a trophic cascade?
- (A) Kudzu is a plant that was brought to the U.S. to help with erosion. It crowds out other plants. Fewer types of plants and animals live in an area overrun with kudzu.
  - (B) Wolves were returned to Yellowstone National Park. The wolves mainly preyed on deer, which then avoided open areas around streams. More willow trees started to grow on stream banks.
  - (C) Eastern elk were hunted to extinction. Western Rocky Mountain elk have been moved to places where Eastern elk lived. The western elk populations are growing.
  - (D) The chestnut blight is a fungus that came on lumber from China. The fungus attacked American chestnut trees. There were fewer chestnuts available to wildlife.

- 2 Read the following paragraph from the section "Studying Sea Otter Habitat."

*Islands without sea otters had huge urchins that littered the barren seafloor. The underwater forests of kelp that once grew there had disappeared. The urchins consumed every kelp plant in sight. "Our results were eye-opening," he says.*

Which word from the paragraph helps the reader to understand the meaning of "barren"?

- (A) huge
  - (B) littered
  - (C) disappeared
  - (D) eye-opening
- 3 What is the order of these events in the Pacific?
1. *Kelp populations declined.*
  2. *Sea otter populations declined*
  3. *Sea urchin populations increased.*
  4. *Sea otters were hunted for their pelts.*

- (A) 1, 3, 2 then 4
- (B) 2, 1, 4 then 3
- (C) 4, 2, 3 then 1
- (D) 4, 3, 1 then 2

- 4 Read the following paragraph from the section "Sea Otter Numbers And Threat Of Killer Whales."

*Fortunately sea otters were saved from extinction. Or at least it seemed that way in the 1980s and 1990s. Then Estes made a second disturbing discovery. He returned to the Aleutian islands of Adak and Amchitka. There, sea otter numbers had been steadily rising. But now he found their populations were dwindling.*

What is the meaning of the word "dwindling" as it is used in the paragraph above?

- (A) separating
- (B) changing
- (C) developing
- (D) shrinking

- 5 Which detail from the article provides an explanation of how sea otters can affect the atmosphere?
- (A) Sea otters keep kelp forests healthy. Kelp forests use carbon dioxide to make their own food in a process called photosynthesis.
  - (B) Oceans need sea otters to keep the sea urchin population in check. Areas with too many sea urchins are not healthy.
  - (C) Commercial whaling caused a decrease in great whales and caused killer whales to change their diet and eat sea otters.
  - (D) Human activity is continuing to impact wildlife. Humans are creating trophic cascades with unexpected consequences.
- 6 Read the article's introduction [paragraphs 1-3] and the final three paragraphs of the article. What is one connection between these two selections?
- (A) They both explain how gaining or losing top predators changes ecosystems.
  - (B) They both describe ways in which sea otter populations and their ecosystems have changed over time.
  - (C) They both outline specific human activity that has had negative consequences on ecosystems.
  - (D) They both define the term "trophic cascade" and provide examples that illustrate its impact on ecosystems.
- 7 A sea urchin weighs an average of 1 pound. How many sea urchins would an adult otter consume in two days?
- (A) 20
  - (B) 24
  - (C) 40
  - (D) 48
- 8 If the section "Studying Sea Otter Habitat" was organized as cause and effect, which paragraph would come FIRST?
- (A) Estes wanted to know what happened to the ecosystem after sea otter populations declined. So he began studying the sea floors around islands where sea otters had survived. He also studied areas where they had disappeared.
  - (B) Islands without sea otters had huge urchins that littered the barren seafloor. The underwater forests of kelp that once grew there had disappeared. The urchins consumed every kelp plant in sight. "Our results were eye-opening," he says.
  - (C) By contrast, kelp flourished on nearby islands where sea otters survived or had been reintroduced. Estes found similar results elsewhere. Islands with sea otters had healthy kelp forests. Islands without otters had barren sea floors littered with sea urchins and no kelp.
  - (D) In removing sea otters from the North Pacific, humans had endangered the species. They also disrupted a large chunk of the Pacific marine environment.

## Informational Activity 2.4

### Summary

After reading the article, *Young activists raise money to save rain forests*, complete the following:

1. Write a summary that reflects the main points of the article. Remember to include only the most important points of the article.

# Young activists raise money to save rain forests

By Lela Nargi, Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.26.21

Word Count **551**

Level **MAX**



Image 1. Beckett McGrath (right) started a group called Protection of Earth. The group has hosted several events to raise money for the Rainforest Trust, including this Run for the Rainforest in 2019. Photo: McGrath family

Many people are learning about climate change thanks to Greta Thunberg. The Swedish teenager started Fridays for Future in 2018 by skipping school once a week to call people's attention to our warming planet. In this case, skipping school is called a "strike." Her actions launched a movement of school strikes around the world.

Lots of other kids — even those who are much younger — have figured out ways to help save the Earth. They've gotten involved in environmental causes close to their hearts. Some of them are inspired by the "30 by 30" initiative: Fifty countries, including the United States, have promised to protect 30 percent of Earth's land and waters by 2030.

One of the kids is 11-year-old Beckett McGrath from Georgetown, Texas. He wants to help conserve endangered species. In 2019, he began working with Rainforest Trust. "I was really interested in trying to stop climate change," he said.

Beckett's idea was to start a group called Protection of Earth. With his home-school classmates and other kids, the group organized a local Run for the Rainforest that raised more than \$700. The

money helped Rainforest Trust save more than 1,000 acres of rain forest land.

When the coronavirus pandemic stopped people from gathering in person to fundraise, Beckett put together an online event called Trivia for the Rainforest: People could log on and test their knowledge of birds, endangered species and climate change. That raised \$600 for rain forest land.

Beckett says kids should remember that every effort to help the environment matters. "Even if you don't do a huge amount, it still is good to do stuff," he said. Most important, he said, "humans need to learn to be with nature."

In Los Angeles, California, 10-year-old Justin Sather is obsessed with frogs. He calls them "magical, because they come in different colors and they start out as tadpoles."



Last year he joined Rainforest Trust's Reserva: The Youth Land Trust to help protect 244 acres of Ecuador's Chocó Cloud Forest and its amazing frogs. Justin especially likes glass frogs, chachi tree frogs and tiger-striped leaf frogs, which he hopes to see when he visits Ecuador this summer.

Justin has been successful raising money for the land trust. He appeared on local TV news, and many people found out about his efforts. That helped him raise \$2,000 to conserve almost 3 acres of the Chocó forest. Fundraising has been a great way for him to put his frog passion to use. Many species of frogs are becoming extinct because of climate change and habitat loss, so protecting habitats protects frogs, too.

Justin hopes he can inspire other people to understand why frogs are so cool.

"Frogs are indicator species, telling us the planet needs help," he said. "If frogs are dying wherever you are, that's bad because it means the water you're drinking has pollution and pesticides."

For anyone who's still not convinced that frogs are worth protecting, Justin recites his favorite frog fact: "Their tongues are really long. If [it were in] a person instead of a frog, their tongue would go to their belly button!"

## Quiz

- 1 Which statement is a CENTRAL idea of the article?
- (A) Beckett McGrath raised enough money to conserve almost three acres of the Chocó Cloud Forest.
  - (B) Fundraising became more difficult after the coronavirus prevented people from meeting in person.
  - (C) Young kids are finding new ways to work on environmental causes to help stop climate change.
  - (D) Countries in the "30 by 30" initiative promise to protect 30 percent of the Earth's lands and oceans by 2030.
- 2 Which sentence from the article would be MOST important to include in a summary of the article?
- (A) With his home-school classmates and other kids, the group organized a local Run for the Rainforest that raised more than \$700.
  - (B) People could log on and test their knowledge of birds, endangered species and climate change.
  - (C) He calls them "magical, because they come in different colors and they start out as tadpoles."
  - (D) "If [it were in] a person instead of a frog, their tongue would go to their belly button!"
- 3 Which answer choice BEST describes the author's point of view about Greta Thunberg?
- (A) She was wrong to encourage kids around the world to skip school.
  - (B) She has inspired many kids to take action to protect the planet.
  - (C) She has worked hard to raise money for the Rainforest Trust.
  - (D) She should have helped Beckett McGrath start Protection of Earth.
- 4 Justin Sather thinks that frogs can teach people about the health of the planet.  
Which detail from the article supports this opinion?
- (A) In Los Angeles, California, 10-year-old Justin Sather is obsessed with frogs.
  - (B) Last year he joined Rainforest Trust's Reserva: The Youth Land Trust to help protect 244 acres of Ecuador's Chocó Cloud Forest and its amazing frogs.
  - (C) Fundraising has been a great way for him to put his frog passion to use.
  - (D) "Frogs are indicator species, telling us the planet needs help," he said.

# "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" author Eric Carle dies at 91

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 06.01.21

Word Count 714

Level 780L



Image 1. Author Eric Carle wrote and illustrated the popular book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and many other books. He died on May 23, 2021. Photo: AP/Richard Drew

Eric Carle died at the age of 91 on May 23. Carle was a children's author and illustrator. His book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" is one of the most popular books for children. Using simple words and bright colors, he gave kids some of their earliest and most loved memories of books and reading.

Carle wanted to bring positive messages into his stories. "I believe that children are naturally creative and eager to learn. I want to show them that learning is really both fascinating and fun," he once said.

## The Very Popular Caterpillar

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" is the story of a green and red caterpillar who transforms into a proud, multicolored butterfly. But first, it eats through 26 different foods. The book first came out in 1969. It was a big hit with kids and parents.

The book continues to be hugely popular. It has sold 40 million copies and has been translated into 60 languages. Today, stuffed animal caterpillars are sold. The story has even been turned into a stage play.

"I remember that as a child, I always felt I would never grow up and be big and articulate and intelligent," Carle told *The New York Times* in 1994. "'Caterpillar' is a book of hope: You, too, can grow up and grow wings."

### **Early Influences**

Carle was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1929. His parents were immigrants from Germany. They moved back when Carle was 6 years old. It was the early 1930s. The Nazis had power in Germany. They were a political group. The Nazis killed millions of Jews and other people before and during World War II.

Under the Nazis, only art that looks like real life was allowed. But one day, a high school art teacher showed Carle some art that he kept hidden. One was a painting called "Blue Horse" by the artist Franz Marc. The painting shows a bright blue horse with bright colors behind it. It made a big impact on Carle.

"I was used to pretty paintings with a mountain in the background. Although I was shocked, I always carried that day in my heart," Carle told NPR in 2011. In his books, he chose to make animals in unusual colors to show his young readers that there is no wrong color in art.

### **The Wonder Of Living Creatures**

Carle's father introduced him to the wonders of living creatures. Carle remembered going out in nature with his father. "And he would show me worms and bugs and bees and ants and explain their lives to me," Carle told *The New York Times* in 1994. These creatures would later appear in his books.

The stories taught kids that they could master the world. They did that by showing critters with "very" big problems. These included "The Very Busy Spider" and "The Very Lonely Firefly." Carle also explored the love of family in such books as "Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me," and "Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too?"

After graduating from art school, Carle returned to the United States in 1952. He eventually worked in the advertising world.

Children's author Bill Martin Jr. had just written "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" He needed an illustrator. He saw an ad Carle had created about a Maine lobster.

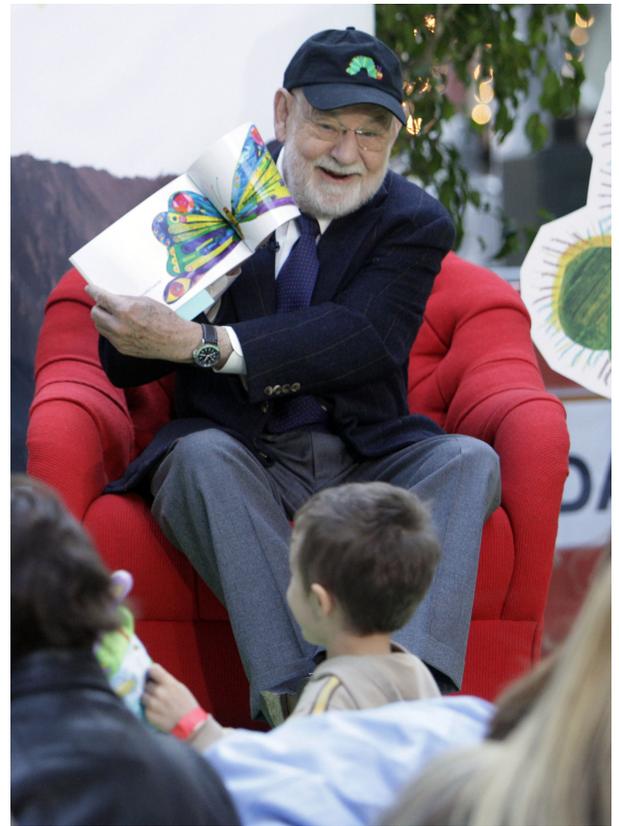
"The art was so striking that I knew instantly that I had found my artist!" Martin told *The Associated Press* in 2003.

The book introduces colors and animals to young readers. It came out in 1967 and has been a bestselling book ever since.

Carle had his own special way of making illustrations. He pieced pictures together mainly from tissue paper. He painted the tissue paper with various colors and textures.

In 2002, Carle and his late wife, Barbara Carle, founded The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. The museum is based in Amherst, Massachusetts. It displays picture book illustrations from around the world.

Carle wrote and-or illustrated more than 75 books. He received lifetime achievement awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Library Association.



## Quiz

- 1 Read the section "The Very Popular Caterpillar."
- Which sentence from this section supports the conclusion that Eric Carle wanted to encourage kids with his books?
- (A) But first, it eats through 26 different foods.
  - (B) It has sold 40 million copies and has been translated into 60 languages.
  - (C) Today, stuffed animal caterpillars are sold.
  - (D) "'Caterpillar' is a book of hope: You, too, can grow up and grow wings."
- 2 Read the section "The Wonder Of Living Creatures."
- Select the detail from the section that shows how Eric Carle developed an interest in creatures.
- (A) Carle remembered going out in nature with his father. "And he would show me worms and bugs and bees and ants and explain their lives to me," Carle told The New York Times in 1994.
  - (B) The stories taught kids that they could master the world. They did that by showing critters with "very" big problems. These included "The Very Busy Spider" and "The Very Lonely Firefly."
  - (C) Carle also explored the love of family in such books as "Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me," and "Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too?"
  - (D) After graduating from art school, Carle returned to the United States in 1952. He eventually worked in the advertising world.
- 3 What is the relationship between "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?"
- (A) Eric Carle was the writer for both of them, but he also illustrated "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."
  - (B) Eric Carle was the illustrator for both of them, but he also wrote "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."
  - (C) Eric Carle asked Bill Martin Jr. to help with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," but he did "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by himself.
  - (D) Eric Carle asked Bill Martin Jr. to help with "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" but he did "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," by himself.
- 4 What caused Eric Carle to feel OK to make animals in unusual colors?
- (A) He saw the painting called "Blue Horse" by Franz Marc.
  - (B) He saw paintings with beautiful mountains in the background.
  - (C) He went on walks with his father and saw different animals.
  - (D) He went to work with Bill Martin Jr. at The Associated Press.

## Informational Activity 2.5

### Summary

After reading the article, "*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*" author *Eric Carle dies at 91*, complete the following:

1. Write a summary that reflects the main points of the article. Remember to include only the most important points of the article.

# Growing Up in Darfur

## Sudanese Children Struggle to Survive

Sumaya's life used to be just like other children's lives. She went to school, played with friends, and did chores.

But in early 2003, everything changed. Armed fighters attacked her village in Darfur, a region of Sudan, killing everyone in sight. Sumaya and her family had to run for their lives.

"We ran and ran until I felt that I couldn't go on any longer," Sumaya recalled at the age of 15.



Leigh Haeger

*Map of Sudan.*

After walking about 100 miles, they arrived at Kalma Camp, a place for *refugees* in Darfur. Refugees are people who flee their homes because of war or a natural disaster.

The camp was home to more than 70,000 refugees. As of 2011, approximately 2.6 million people had abandoned their homes to escape the fierce fighting over Darfur's scarce farmable land. Hundreds of thousands of those refugees were children, according to the United Nations.

The refugees arrived at places like Kalma Camp with little more than the clothes on their backs. Food and water were scarce, and the outlying violence often spilled into the camps. The situation was the

"world's worst humanitarian crisis," U.N. officials said.

"Tens, even hundreds, of thousands of people...need water, medical care, and food," said Pauline Horrill of Doctors Without Borders, an aid group.

## Everyday Struggle

Even a few years after Sumaya had arrived at Kalma Camp, conditions in the refugee camps were bleak. Tents and mud huts were clustered as far as the eye could see. The scorching sun beat down on the desert landscape, pushing the temperature as high as 122 degrees Fahrenheit.

Stephen Winter, a U.S. doctor, helped treat some of the sickest refugees at a makeshift clinic. "Many of the people ... have to sleep on the ground," he wrote in his journal. "They share the ground with biting insects and the occasional snake."

The refugees received food rations twice a month. Sumaya used the wheat, beans, oil, salt, and powdered food mixture that her family received to make a brown, watery soup for her younger brothers and sisters.

"The food here is not nutritious," she told a U.N. aid worker. "In our village, we used to eat lots of vegetables and fruits, but we can't grow anything here."

## Hope for the Future

One bright spot in Sumaya's life was school. She went to English classes in the camp. She also volunteered at a center where refugee children could play, draw pictures, and talk about what they'd been through.

The centers were important, explained Adolphe Mbaikouma, a UNICEF worker. "Sharing laughter helps release some bad memories," Mbaikouma said.

However, aid workers feared that more bad memories might be inevitable. Fighters had begun to attack refugee camps. The United Nations had cut the number of aid workers in the area because of the danger.

Still, Sumaya stayed positive by thinking about good things. She was thankful that her parents and brothers and sisters were alive. She daydreamed about her family's farm and the day she would be able to return home.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, approximately how many people in Darfur had abandoned their homes as of 2011?

- A. 100 people
- B. 122 people
- C. 70,000 people
- D. 2.6 million people

2. According to the text, what caused the fighting to start in Darfur?

- A. not enough schools for children
- B. scarce number of houses
- C. diamonds and other valuable gems
- D. scarce farmland

3. Read these sentences from the text.

However, aid workers feared that more bad memories might be inevitable. Fighters had begun to attack refugee camps. The United Nations had cut the number of aid workers in the area because of the danger.

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. The refugees will always be safe in the camps because aid workers protect them.
- B. The refugees will likely have to leave the camp if fighters continue to attack them.
- C. The United Nations is not concerned about the well-being of the refugees in the camp.
- D. The United Nations is the only group working to help the refugees in the camp.

4. Read this sentence from the text.

The refugees arrived at places like Kalma Camp with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Based on the text, why did people most likely arrive at Kalma Camp with very little?

- A. They did not need to bring anything to the camps.
- B. They did not want to bring anything from the villages.
- C. They were not allowed by the camps to bring anything from the villages.
- D. They did not have time to take anything when the villages were attacked.

5. What is the main idea of the text?

- A. After fleeing violence in their hometowns, refugees face terrible conditions at the Darfur refugee camps.
- B. Sunaya and her family managed to escape the fighters threatening their home.
- C. There is much people can do to support and help the refugees in the camp.
- D. The education of refugees in the Darfur camp is the first priority for aid workers there.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

Even a few years after Sumaya had arrived at Kalma Camp, conditions in the refugee camps were **bleak**. Tents and mud huts were clustered as far as the eye could see. The scorching sun beat down on the desert landscape, pushing the temperature as high as 122 degrees Fahrenheit.

As used in these sentences, what does the word "**bleak**" mean?

- A. clean
- B. positive
- C. gloomy
- D. cheerful

7. Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Sumaya stayed positive by thinking about good things \_\_\_\_\_ conditions in the refugee camps had gotten worse.

- A. before
- B. because
- C. but
- D. even though

8. According to the organization Doctors Without Borders, what did the refugees in Darfur need in 2011?

9. Based on the text, why was it important for the refugee camps to help children cope with their experiences? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Sumaya's family left their farm because
  - A. they wanted to help at the refugee camps.
  - B. armed fighters asked them to leave.
  - C. the farm was not producing food anymore.
  - D. armed fighters attacked their village.
  
2. Refugee camps were set up to
  - A. give medical attention to the victims.
  - B. provide safety for the victims.
  - C. give food and shelter to the victims of the attacks.
  - D. all of the above.
  
3. The author wrote this passage
  - A. to ask the armed fighters to stop fighting.
  - B. to inform the reader about the situation in Darfur.
  - C. to plead to the U.N. for aid.
  - D. all of the above.
  
4. People in the refugee camps sleep on the ground because
  - A. the ground is safer than the tents.
  - B. they are immune to snake bites.
  - C. the ground is cooler.
  - D. there are not enough beds for everyone.
  
5. How is your life similar and different to Sumaya's? Explain.

## Sailing Into History



### **A British teen becomes the youngest person to sail solo across the Atlantic Ocean.**

Michael Perham's voyage across the Atlantic Ocean was full of surprises. His journey included shark sightings, equipment failure and flying fish that hopped into his boat.

Despite the unexpected events, the teen from Hertfordshire, England, achieved what he had set out to do. In January 2007, at age 14, Michael became the youngest person to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo, or alone, at the time.

"It feels absolutely fantastic being back on dry land," Michael told BBC News after his journey.

Michael set out on his record-breaking expedition, or trip, in November [2006]. He began his journey from Gibraltar, on the southern coast of Spain, aboard his sailboat *Cheeky Monkey*. With his dad following in another boat, Michael completed the 3,500-mile journey, arriving in Antigua, an island in the Caribbean Sea.

During his journey at sea, Michael documented, or recorded, his voyage on his blog. One evening he watched a school of dolphins leap through waves. His self-steering gear broke once, and on another morning a flying fish landed in his lap. "It's an amazingly good feeling when you are on the open sea and [there is] no land in sight," he wrote as he watched the sun set near the Cape Verde Islands.

When Michael arrived in Antigua, crowds gathered to congratulate him. "I was surrounded by loads of cameras, microphones, and people asking me questions, and, wow, it was unbelievable," he wrote.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, what was Michael Perham the youngest person to do in January 2007?

- A. have flying fish hop into his boat
- B. begin a journey from Gibraltar
- C. cross the Atlantic Ocean solo
- D. document his voyage on a blog

2. What does the text report?

- A. Michael's reaction to his record-breaking expedition
- B. different reactions to Michael's record-breaking expedition
- C. Michael's dad's reaction to Michael's record-breaking expedition
- D. the author's reaction to Michael's record-breaking expedition

3. Read these paragraphs from the text.

Michael Perham's voyage across the Atlantic Ocean was full of surprises. His journey included shark sightings, equipment failure and flying fish that hopped into his boat.

Despite the unexpected events, the teen from Hertfordshire, England, achieved what he had set out to do. In January 2007, at age 14, Michael became the youngest person to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo, or alone, at the time.

What can you conclude about Michael Perham from this information?

- A. Michael knew exactly what to expect during his trip across the Atlantic.
- B. Michael is most likely a determined and self-reliant person.
- C. Michael would have preferred to do the voyage with a friend.
- D. Michael was able to finish his voyage because he had help from family and friends.

4. Why might the author have started the text by describing the many surprises Michael had on his trip?

- A. to make the reader excited to read more
- B. because Michael told the author to start the story that way
- C. to make sailing sound like a bad idea
- D. because the surprises are the most important parts of the story

5. What is this text mostly about?

- A. Michael became the youngest person to sail across the Atlantic Ocean alone.
- B. Michael's father followed him in another boat to help Michael achieve his goal.
- C. Many unexpected things happened to Michael on his trip.
- D. Michael wrote a blog to document his trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

6. Read this sentence from the text.

**Despite** the unexpected events, the teen from Hertfordshire, England, achieved what he had set out to do.

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**despite**" mean?

- A. during
- B. even with
- C. since
- D. because of

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ his journey at sea, Michael documented, or recorded, his voyage on his blog.

- A. In spite of
- B. Before
- C. After
- D. During

8. According to the text, what was Michael doing as he watched the sun set near the Cape Verde Islands?

9. Explain whether or not Micheal might recommend people to sail across the Atlantic Ocean. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which of the following events happened last?

- A. A flying fish landed in Michael's lap.
- B. Crowds congratulated Michael.
- C. Michael got on the *Cheeky Monkey*.
- D. Michael watched the sun set.

2. What is the correct order of the places Michael traveled to?

- A. Gibraltar, Cape Verde Islands, Hertfordshire England, Antigua
- B. Gibraltar, Antigua, Cape Verde Islands, Hertfordshire
- C. Spain, Antigua, Cape Verde Islands, Hertfordshire
- D. Hertfordshire, Gibraltar, Cape Verde Islands, Antigua

3. Which of the following equipment failed on Michael's trip?

- A. the self-steering gear
- B. Michael's document recorder
- C. Michael's computer
- D. the boat's motor

4. This passage is told from the point of view of

- A. the narrator's and the crowd's.
- B. Michael's and his father's.
- C. Michael's and the crowd's.
- D. the narrator's and Michael's.

5. List the things Michael probably did to prepare for this expedition in the order you think he did them.

## Kwan's Crusade

# Champion skater Michelle Kwan shared her story in the name of the United States

Back in 2007, Michelle Kwan traveled around the globe, visiting schools to speak to young people about the values of the United States.

Kwan, in her twenties, in November 2006 accepted the new challenge to help improve the nation's image abroad. That is when then U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice appointed her the first American public diplomat. A diplomat is a person who represents his or her country abroad.

According to Rice, many children in other countries are exposed to negative messages about the United States. As an envoy, or messenger, Kwan shared her own life experiences and successes. "Like so many Americans, Michelle Kwan has a unique personal story, one that has captivated people everywhere, especially young people," Rice told *WR News*.

The daughter of Chinese immigrants, California-born Kwan won her first world figure-skating title when she was 15. (An immigrant is a person who comes from another country to live in a new country permanently.) In total, Kwan has won 43 championships, including an Olympic silver medal in 1998 and a bronze medal in 2002.

"I am honored to accept this appointment and to serve my country," Kwan says. "As an athlete, I have always been proud to represent the United States around the world. Being able to do so in this new position is very special and meaningful to me."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In what year did Michelle Kwan win an Olympic silver medal?

- A. 2002
- B. 2007
- C. 1998
- D. 1997

2. Read these two sentences Michelle said in the passage:

"As an athlete, I have always been proud to represent the United States around the world. Being able to do so in this new position is very special and meaningful to me."

Which of the following describes the relationship between these two sentences?

- A. The sentences present two sides of an argument that are given for the position.
- B. The sentences describe a viewpoint.
- C. The first sentence explains the effect of the second sentence
- D. The second sentence is the cause of the first sentence.

3. Which of the following conclusions about Michelle Kwan can you draw from the passage?

- A. After becoming a U.S. public diplomat, Michelle won an Olympic gold medal.
- B. Michelle's experiences make her a good choice to represent the United States.
- C. Michelle returned to California and now lives with her parents.
- D. Michelle is training to compete in the Olympics again.

4. Read the following sentence from the passage:

"Like so many Americans, Michelle Kwan has a unique personal story, one that has captivated people everywhere, especially young people," Rice told *WR News*.

In this sentence, the word **unique** means

- A. one of a kind
- B. regular
- C. common
- D. every so often

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A. why Michelle was chosen as a U.S. public diplomat
- B. the relationship between Michelle and her parents
- C. the places Michelle traveled in her public diplomat role
- D. the numerous figure-skating championships Michelle Kwan has won

6. How many Olympic medals has Michelle Kwan won?

7. Why might then U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have chosen Michelle Kwan to represent the United States as a public diplomat? Cite examples from the text to support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ her parents were born in China, Michelle was born in the United States.

- A. However
- B. Otherwise
- C. Although
- D. Since

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which of Michelle's characteristics do you think will be a benefit when she speaks to others in foreign countries?

- A. her ability to work hard.
- B. her determination to succeed.
- C. her respect for the U.S.
- D. all of the above.

2. Since Michelle's parents were immigrants to the U.S., their personal characteristics include

- A. giving up easily.
- B. determination to have Americans immigrate to China.
- C. speaking negatively about the U.S.
- D. helping their daughter achieve an American dream.

3. What does the author mean by saying that "Michelle Kwan has a new pair of shoes to fill-and they aren't ice skates."?

- A. Michelle's foot grew and she has to wear a new size shoe.
- B. Michelle has a new job: giving speeches in foreign countries.
- C. Michelle will visit foreign countries and criticize the U.S.
- D. Michelle will wear high heels.

4. Among Michelle's Olympic achievements, she has won

- A. two bronze medals.
- B. a silver and a gold medal.
- C. a silver and a bronze medal.
- D. a gold medal.

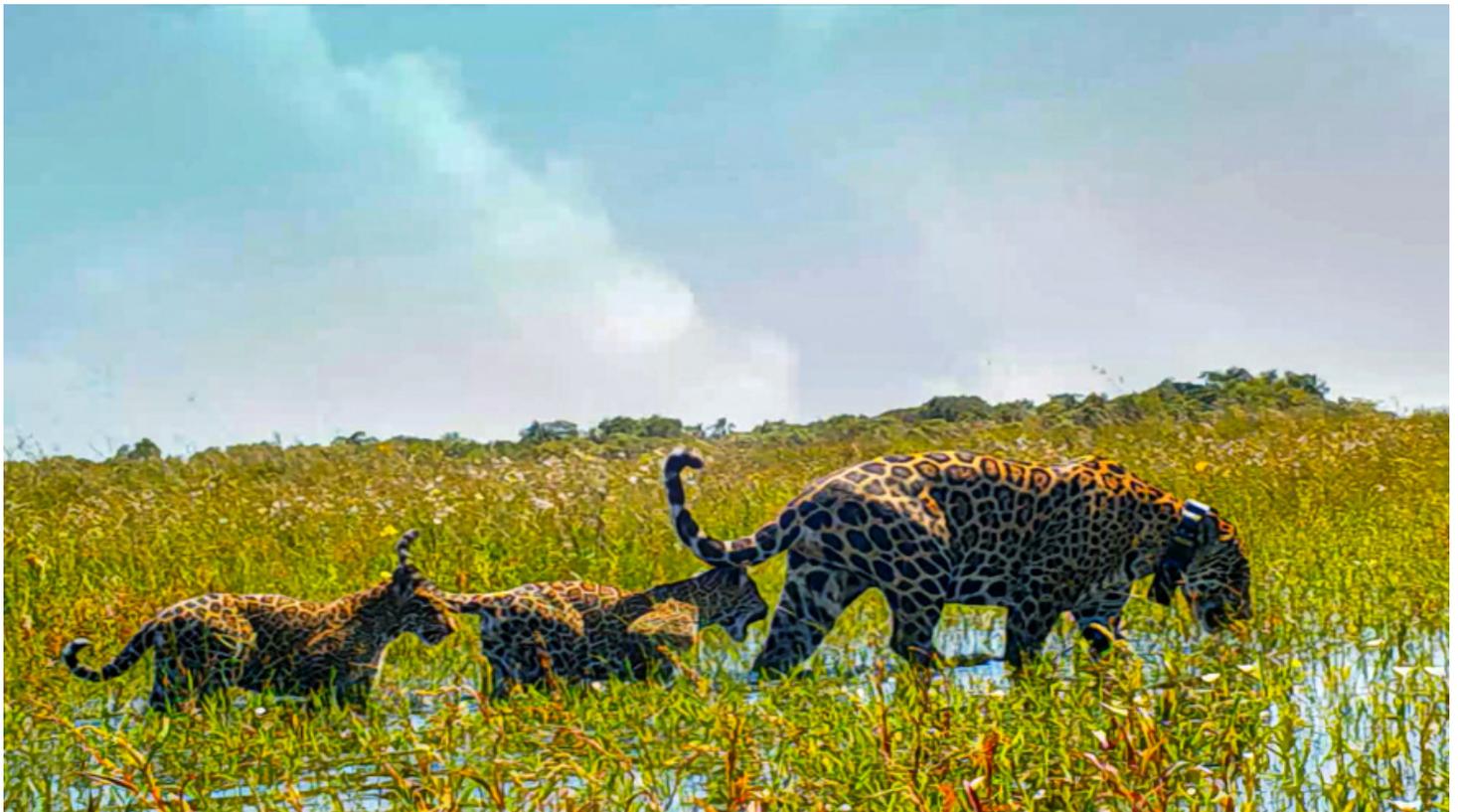
5. What kinds of personal characteristics do you think it would take for an American to become a successful immigrant to Asia?

# Jaguar release is a step to saving the species in Argentina

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.20.21

Word Count **574**

Level **700L**



Mariua and her cubs Karai and Porã, all part of a breeding program, were released in January 2021 into the Gran Iberá Park nature preserve in northeastern Argentina. Photo: Thompkins Conservation

Jaguars almost disappeared completely in Argentina 70 years ago. Today, people are trying to help the jaguar population survive.

In January, three jaguars — a mom and her two babies — returned to the wild in northeastern Argentina. They were in a breeding center. That is a place where endangered species are born and raised. Endangered species are living things that have become so rare they are in danger of disappearing.

The two young jaguars were born at the center. This means that humans cared for them. But now they live in the wild. This process is called rewilding. The three jaguars now live in Gran Iberá Park. It is a 1.7 million-acre nature preserve. It was the first reintroduction of jaguars in that part of Argentina.

Scientists hope they can turn things around for the jaguars. Only 200 to 300 jaguars remain in the country.

## **Ecosystem Balance**

Sebastián Di Martino is the conservation director for Rewilding Argentina. Conservation is the act of preserving or protecting something. Rewilding Argentina is one of the organizations helping to reestablish jaguar populations.

The jaguars' journey started in 2018 when Gran Iberá Park was established. Several thousand jaguars once roamed there. However, the jaguars' fur pelts were valuable. People hunted them. And cattle ranchers cleared the land they lived on.

But this was a problem. Jaguars are apex predators. These are animals at the top of a food chain that are not hunted by any other animal. The loss of the apex predator brought other changes to the ecosystem. An ecosystem is a biological community made up of plants, animals, and other small living things.

Without the jaguars, "ecosystems stop working well and may even collapse," Di Martino said. The animals that the jaguars usually eat become too abundant. This throws the whole ecosystem out of balance.

## **Breeding Centers**

Gran Iberá Park was the first step to give jaguars a place to live. Then they needed to breed in order to have babies. The jaguar mom — a female named Mariua — mated with a male jaguar from Brazil. Mariua then gave birth to the two baby jaguars.

It sounds simple, but the reality is more complicated. Di Martino said that jaguars born in breeding centers have to learn how to hunt. They must not become used to humans. Otherwise, they will not have success in the wild.

The people who work at the breeding center stay out of sight. They use video cameras to watch the jaguars from several miles away. They also provide food for the jaguars.

Now, Mariua wears a radio collar in the wild. This is so researchers can track her and her young cubs. So far, so good. The mother has been hunting capybaras and wild pigs. Plus, she is "raising her cubs very well," Di Martino said.

## **Tourism**

The father of the cubs will be released later. So will six more jaguars. The breeding center plans to release 10 to 15 jaguars in total. This is enough to reestablish the population, Di Martino said.

The last part of rewilding is trickier. People in the surrounding communities have to think that having jaguars around is a good thing. So Di Martino and others are working to create jobs in tourism. They hope travelers will come to Argentina just to see the wildlife in Gran Iberá Park. Soon that will mean not just jaguars but giant anteaters, deer, and birds, too.

## Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the article helps the reader to understand that humans put jaguars in danger?
- (A) Jaguars almost disappeared completely in Argentina 70 years ago.
  - (B) And cattle ranchers cleared the land they lived on.
  - (C) Di Martino said that jaguars born in breeding centers have to learn how to hunt.
  - (D) People in the surrounding communities have to think that having jaguars around is a good thing.

- 2 Read the section "Ecosystem Balance."
- Which sentence explains WHY jaguars are important to the survival of plants and animals in Argentina?
- (A) Rewilding Argentina is one of the organizations helping to reestablish jaguar populations.
  - (B) These are animals at the top of a food chain that are not hunted by any other animal.
  - (C) An ecosystem is a biological community made up of plants, animals, and other small living things.
  - (D) Without the jaguars, "ecosystems stop working well and may even collapse," Di Martino said.

- 3 Read the following sentence from the Introduction [paragraphs 1-4].

*This process is called rewilding.*

What does the author mean by "process"?

- (A) type of growth
  - (B) passage of time
  - (C) series of actions
  - (D) form of protection
- 4 Read the sentence below from the section "Tourism."

*The last part of rewilding is trickier.*

What does "the last part" refer to?

- (A) making people accept jaguars
- (B) helping jaguars learn to hunt
- (C) putting jaguars back in the wild
- (D) raising jaguars in breeding centers

### Informational Activity 3.4

#### Text Structure

After reading the article, *Jaguar release is a step to saving the species in Argentina* , answer the following questions:

1. What is the problem presented in this article?
2. List the solutions the article gives for the given problem:

# Endangered Animals at a Glance

## Back to the Wild

Not all the news is bad about endangered animals. In the United States, dozens of endangered animals have been making a comeback. Here are few of them:

**Gray Wolf:** By the 1970s, the gray wolf had all but vanished from Yellowstone National Park. In 1995 and 1996, federal biologists brought 66 wolves from Canada and set them free in the wilderness areas of the park and central Idaho. Today, about 285 gray wolves live in central Idaho, and 271 more roam Yellowstone.

**Bald Eagle:** Before Europeans came to North America, the sky was teeming with bald eagles. As settlers moved west, they destroyed the eagles' natural habitat. Egg collectors and pesticides almost wiped out the bald eagle population.

However, about 30 years ago the federal government passed laws to protect the eagles. Today, more than 7,678 pairs of bald eagles live in the lower United States.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*Grizzly Bear*

**Grizzly Bear:** In the 1800s, an estimated 50,000 grizzly bears roamed the West. Today, the bears are making a comeback in several Western areas, including Yellowstone Park.

# Can Zoos Help Save Endangered Animals?

Emi is a crowd-pleasing Sumatran rhinoceros at the Cincinnati Zoo. Why is she so popular? In 2004, Emi gave birth to Suci, a healthy, wide-eyed female calf.

Although most visitors to the zoo enjoy gazing at Emi and Suci, scientists are happy for another reason. Suci's arrival brings scientists a step closer to pulling the Sumatran rhinoceros back from the edge of extinction.



sxc.hu

*Sumatran rhinoceros*

As the populations of wild animals dwindle, conservationists are hoping that they can breed animals in zoos and later release them into the wild.

Scientists have reintroduced at least 19 species to the wild from captivity. For example, by 1985 only nine wild California condors were living in that state. Biologists captured all nine and began a captive breeding program. As of July 2005, the number of condors increased to 280, with more than 120 living in the wild.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The passage explains why some endangered animals, including gray wolves and bald eagles may

- A. be getting killed at increasing rates
- B. be making a comeback
- C. be hard to find
- D. be living in zoos

2. The big problem described in the passage is that many animals at one time were in danger of extinction. The passage also describes the efforts that contributed to solving this problem which include

- A. arresting hunters and importing animals from other countries
- B. federal laws and breeding animals in captivity
- C. breeding animals in captivity and allowing animals to roam freely
- D. importing animals from other countries and feeding them special food

3. Which of the following conclusions are supported by the passage?

- A. Scientists do not want to breed animals in zoos.
- B. Endangered animals may no longer survive.
- C. Zoos should not help endangered animals.
- D. People have been able to find ways to save endangered animals.

4. Read the following sentence:

"As the populations of wild animals dwindle, conservationists are hoping that they can breed animals in zoos and later release them into the wild."

In this sentence the word **dwindle** means

- A. sickly
- B. missing
- C. decline
- D. raise

5. Which statement best describes the main idea of this passage?

- A. People are harming endangered animals.
- B. Endangered animals need our help.
- C. Scientists are trying to find a way to help animals to find safe places to live.
- D. Some endangered animals are increasing in number.

6. When the gray wolf had nearly vanished, what did people do to help prevent it from becoming extinct?

7. Why might conservationists want to breed animals in captivity?

8. The question below includes an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

At one time only nine wild California condors were living in that state. \_\_\_\_\_ May 2012, that number has increased to 405 with about 226 living in the wild.

- A. Next
- B. Now
- C. Since
- D. When

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was almost extinct in the 1970s.
  - A. gray wolf
  - B. bald eagle
  - C. grizzly bear
  - D. all of the above.
  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ decreased in numbers because their young did not have a chance to be born.
  - A. California condors
  - B. rhinoceros
  - C. bald eagle
  - D. grey wolf
  
3. Which of the following is not an opinion?
  - A. It is important to keep the California condor alive.
  - B. The grey wolf is too dangerous.
  - C. There are more Grizzly bears now than there were in the 1970s.
  - D. The U.S. should pass more laws to keep other animals from extinction.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ were bred in captivity and let back into the wild.
  - A. Grizzly Bears
  - B. California Condors
  - C. Rhinoceroses
  - D. Bald eagles
  
5. What are some possible problems when zoos breed wild animals and put them back into nature?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Scientists are happy about Suci's birth because the Sumatran rhino was almost extinct. The public is happy mostly because

- A. she has a sibling.
- B. she attracts the condors.
- C. she stays in the water.
- D. she is fun to look at.

2. "Dwindle" apparently means

- A. grow.
- B. teem.
- C. decrease.
- D. capture.

3. The gray wolf has avoided extinction because

- A. people stopped hunting gray wolves.
- B. Canadian wolves set free in Idaho reproduced.
- C. all their predators became extinct.
- D. farmers stopped using pesticides.

4. Yellowstone Park is seeing a comeback of which two kinds of endangered species?

- A. rhinoceroses and condors.
- B. grizzly bears and gray wolves.
- C. California condors and gray wolves.
- D. bald eagles and grizzly bears.

5. Why might animals reproduce better in a captive breeding program than in the wild?