Name _____ Date _____

Fluency Passage

Read the text out loud. A partner times one minute.

Life in a Lion Pride

Lions are the only wild cats that live in large family groups. A group of lions is called a pride. It may include a few grown males, several related females and their cubs. Life in a pride depends on teamwork, and the males and the females each have important jobs. 50

The females, called lionesses, do most of the hunting. They often hunt together, especially when they go after large animals such as zebras, wildebeests or buffalo. Some lionesses may slowly circle around a herd, while others crouch low in the grass and wait. When the frightened herd runs, the hidden lionesses spring out. By working as a team, lionesses can catch animals that are bigger and faster than any one of them could catch alone. Afterward, the pride feeds together, although the biggest lions often push their way in first. 140

The males' main job is guarding the pride's territory, the area where it lives and hunts. A male marks the edges of the territory with his scent and patrols them. Lions also roar. A lion's roar can be heard as far as 5 miles (8 kilometers) away, and it tells other lions that this land is taken. If a strange male tries to take over, the pride's males fight to drive him away. By protecting the territory, they also keep the cubs safe. 223

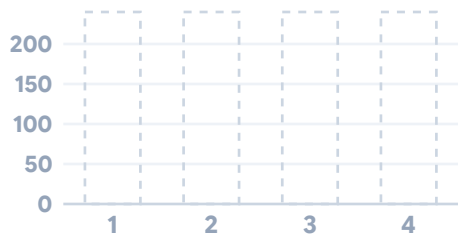
This text is from Main Ideas and Summarizing for 5th Grade.

Total: 223 words

Read for 1 minute. Your partner counts.

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My reading chart

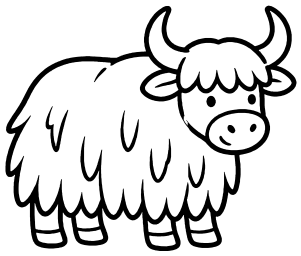


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Name _____ Date _____

Fluency Passage

Read the text out loud. A partner times one minute.



Yaks: Living on the Roof of the World

The Tibetan Plateau in Asia is so high that people call it the Roof of the World. The air there is thin, the winters are long and bitterly cold, and few trees grow. It would be a hard place for most large animals, but it is home to the yak. | 21 | 40 | 50

A yak's body is made for this harsh land. Long, shaggy hair hangs from its sides almost to the ground, and a thick layer of soft, woolly fur lies underneath. Together they trap the yak's body heat like a heavy blanket. A yak also has large lungs and a large heart, so it can take in enough oxygen from the thin mountain air. Its broad hooves help it keep its footing on rocky, icy slopes. | 69 | 86 | 107 | 125

For thousands of years, the people of the high mountains have depended on yaks. Yaks carry heavy loads along steep trails where trucks cannot go. Their milk is made into butter, cheese and yogurt, and their long hair is woven into tents, ropes and warm cloth. Even yak dung is useful. In a land with few trees, people dry it and burn it as fuel for cooking and heat. Most yaks today are tame, but a smaller number of wild yaks still roam the high plateau. | 141 | 158 | 177 | 198 | 211

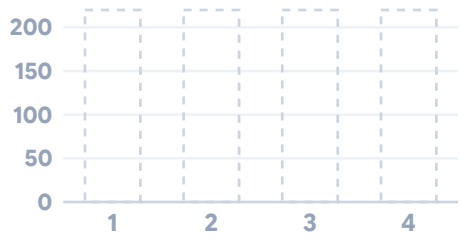
This text is from Main Ideas and Summarizing for 5th Grade.

Total: 211 words

Read for 1 minute. Your partner counts.

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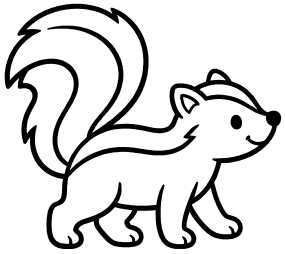


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Name _____ Date _____

Fluency Passage

Read the text out loud. A partner times one minute.



The Skunk's Secret Weapon

Most animals know to leave a skunk alone. A skunk can spray an oily, terrible-smelling liquid 16
from two glands under its tail. It can aim the spray with surprising accuracy at an attacker as 34
far as 10 feet (3 meters) away. The smell can last for days, and the spray stings the eyes. Few 54
animals will hunt a skunk. One that does is the great horned owl, which has a poor sense of smell. 74

A skunk does not spray right away, though, because it gives warnings first. Its bold black and 91
white fur is itself a warning, easy to see even at night. A striped skunk may stamp its front feet, 111
hiss and raise its tail high. A spotted skunk may even do a handstand on its front paws! Spraying 130
is a last resort, since a skunk carries only enough liquid for a few sprays and can take up to 10 151
days to make more. 155

Skunks are helpful to people, too. They come out at night and eat huge numbers of insects, 172
including the beetle grubs that damage lawns and crops. They also eat mice and other small 188
animals that people think of as pests. A skunk that lives near a garden or a farm can be a useful 209
neighbor, as long as no one startles it. 217

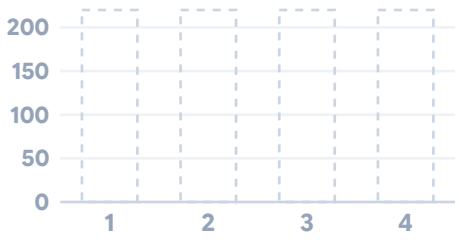
This text is from Main Ideas and Summarizing for 5th Grade.

Total: 217 words

Read for 1 minute. Your partner counts.

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My reading chart

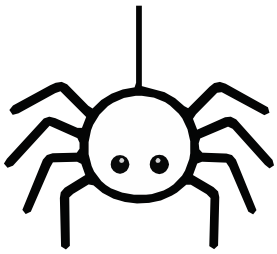


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Read the text out loud. A partner times one minute.



Spider Silk

All spiders make silk, but not all of them spin webs. Silk starts as a liquid inside a spider's body. | 20
As the spider pulls it out through tiny nozzles at the tip of its body, called spinnerets, the liquid | 39
hardens into a thread. | 43

Many spiders can make several kinds of silk, each for its own job. One kind is strong and dry. A | 63
spider uses it for the frame of its web and for a safety line, called a dragline, that catches it if it | 85
falls. Another kind is sticky and catches insects. Mother spiders wrap their eggs in a silk sac. | 102

Spider silk is amazing stuff. A strand of a spider's dragline is stronger than a strand of steel that | 121
weighs the same. It can stretch, too, so the web slows down a flying insect and holds it instead | 140
of letting it break through. | 145

Young spiders even use silk to travel. A tiny spiderling climbs to a high spot, lets out strands of | 164
silk, and floats away on the wind. This is called ballooning, and it can carry a spiderling far from | 183
where it hatched. | 186

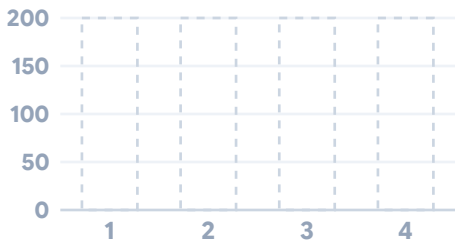
This text is from Main Ideas and Summarizing for 5th Grade.

Total: 186 words

Read for 1 minute. Your partner counts.

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My reading chart



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Fluency Passage

Read the text out loud. A partner times one minute.

Barn Owls: A Farmer's Best Friend

Barn owls live on every continent except Antarctica. These pale owls, with their heart-shaped faces, hunt mostly at night. I believe barn owls are among the most useful birds a farmer can have, for three reasons. 36

First, a barn owl can find a mouse in total darkness. Its face is shaped like a dish, which gathers sound and funnels it toward the owl's ears. One ear sits a little higher than the other, so the owl can tell exactly where a squeak came from. In tests, barn owls have caught mice in rooms with no light at all. 98

Second, barn owls eat huge numbers of rodents, the mice and rats that eat crops and stored grain. One barn owl can eat about a thousand of them in a year, and parents raising chicks catch even more. 136

Third, it is easy to invite barn owls to a farm. They do not build nests. Instead, they need a ready-made hole, such as a hollow tree or an old barn. So farmers put up wooden nest boxes on poles near their fields. In Israel, farmers have put up thousands of these boxes, and many vineyards in California use them too. Some farmers have been able to use less poison to control rodents. 209

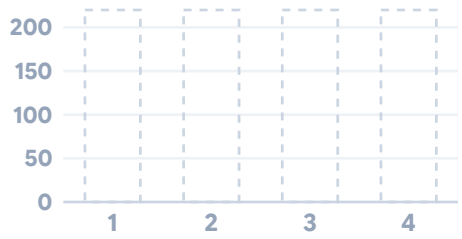
This text is from Reasons and Evidence for 5th Grade.

Total: 209 words

Read for 1 minute. Your partner counts.

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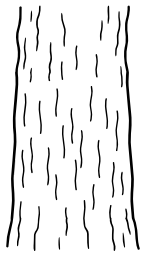


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Fluency Passage

Read the text out loud. A partner times one minute.



Leave Some Dead Trees Standing

When a tree dies, many people want to cut it down right away. In forests and large parks, 18
however, I believe we should leave many dead trees standing, because a standing dead tree, 33
called a snag, is full of life. 40

First, snags provide homes. Woodpeckers carve holes in the soft, decaying wood to raise their 55
young. When the woodpeckers move on, owls, bats, squirrels and many other animals move into 70
the empty holes. In the United States, more than a thousand kinds of animals use dead trees. 87

Second, snags provide food. Beetles and other insects live in the rotting wood, and woodpeckers 102
and other birds feast on them. Third, a snag keeps helping even after it falls. As it slowly decays, 121
it returns nutrients to the soil, and new plants sprout in the rich ground around it. 137

Of course, a dead tree that could fall on a road, a trail or a house should be removed for safety. 158

But wherever it is safe, a snag is worth keeping. 168

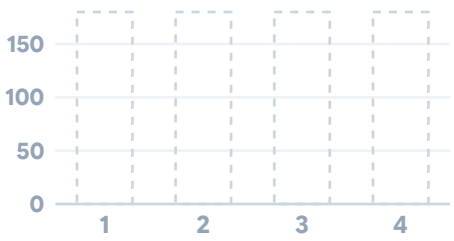
This text is from Reasons and Evidence for 5th Grade.

Total: 168 words

Read for 1 minute. Your partner counts.

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My reading chart



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