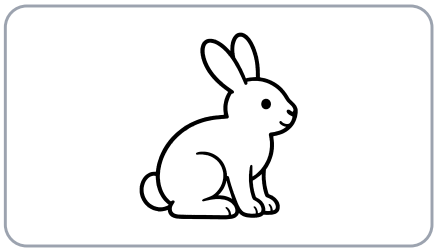
Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Details

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Snowshoe Hares



The snowshoe hare lives in the cold forests of Canada, Alaska and the northern United States. Its fur changes color with the seasons, and that helps it hide from the animals that hunt it.

In summer, a snowshoe hare's fur is brown. The brown fur blends in with the dirt, rocks and dead leaves on the forest floor. A fox or a hawk may pass right by without seeing it.

As the days get shorter in the fall, the hare slowly sheds its brown fur, and white fur grows in its place. By the time snow covers the ground, the hare is almost all white. Only the tips of its ears stay dark.

The hare also has huge back feet covered with thick fur. They work like snowshoes, so the hare can run on top of deep snow without sinking.

---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Foxes and hawks hunt in the forest.

A snowshoe hare's fur changes color so it can hide.

Snow covers the forest floor.

2. Which paragraph tells about something other than the hare's color?

paragraph 2 paragraph 3 paragraph 4

3. What makes the hare start to turn white? Use the text.

_____

_____

4. Give one detail that supports the main idea.

_____

_____

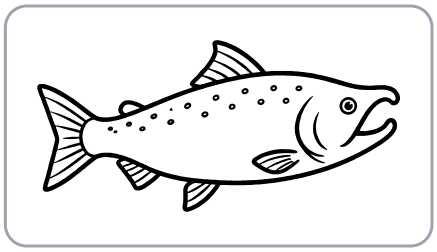
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Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Details

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Salmon's Long Trip



Pacific salmon make one of the most amazing trips of any fish. They hatch in a stream, swim all the way to the ocean, and then come back to the same stream where they hatched.

A young salmon spends its first weeks, months or even years in fresh water. Then it swims downstream to the sea. There it eats and grows for one to several years.

When it is ready to lay eggs, the salmon swims back. It leaps up waterfalls and swims against the current. Some salmon swim more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) up a river! Scientists think salmon use their strong sense of smell to find their home stream.

At last the salmon reaches the place where it hatched. The female digs a nest in the gravel and lays her eggs there. Most Pacific salmon die soon after, and their bodies feed the stream and the young fish that will hatch.

---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Salmon have a strong sense of smell.

Pacific salmon travel from a stream to the ocean and back.

Waterfalls are hard to climb.

2. How do scientists think salmon find their home stream? Which paragraph tells you?

_____

_____

3. Which detail supports the idea that the trip home is hard?

_____

_____

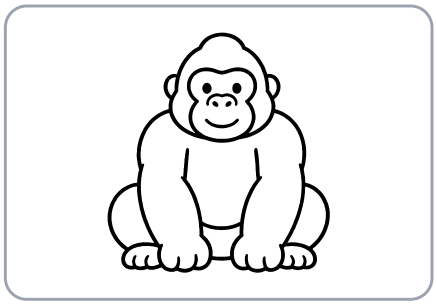
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Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Details

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Gorilla Families



Gorillas are the largest apes in the world. They live in the forests of central Africa in family groups called troops.

A troop is led by a big grown male called a silverback. He gets his name from the patch of silver-gray hair on his back. The silverback keeps the troop safe. If danger comes near, he may stand up, beat his chest and roar to scare it away.

A troop also has several females and their young. A baby gorilla rides on its mother's back and stays close to her for about three or four years. Young gorillas play, wrestle and chase each other, and this helps them learn.

Every evening, each grown gorilla builds a fresh nest of leaves and branches to sleep in. Babies sleep in their mothers' nests.

---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Gorillas live together in family troops.

Gorillas build nests.

Gorillas beat their chests.

2. Why does a silverback beat his chest?

to find food to call the babies to scare away danger

3. How does playing help young gorillas?

_____

4. Give two details that show how gorillas in a troop take care of each other.

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Details

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Koalas

Not a Bear



Koalas live in the forests of eastern Australia. People often call them koala bears, but they are not bears at all. They are marsupials. That means they carry their babies in a pouch.

A Diet of Leaves

A koala eats almost nothing but the leaves of gum trees, called eucalyptus. The leaves are tough and bad for most animals, but a koala's body can break them down. A koala eats up to about a pound (half a kilogram) of leaves a day. It gets most of the water it needs from the leaves, too.

Sleepy Koalas

Gum leaves give a koala very little energy. So it saves energy by sleeping. A koala sleeps up to 20 hours a day, often wedged into the fork of a tree.

---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Koalas are marsupials that live on gum leaves.

Australia has many forests.

Koalas are a kind of bear.

2. Where does a koala get most of the water it needs?

from rain from leaves from rivers

3. Why does a koala sleep so much? Use the text.

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Details

Read a nonfiction text. Write its main idea, then three details that support it.

Title

Main idea

Detail 1	Where I found it

Detail 2	Where I found it

Detail 3	Where I found it

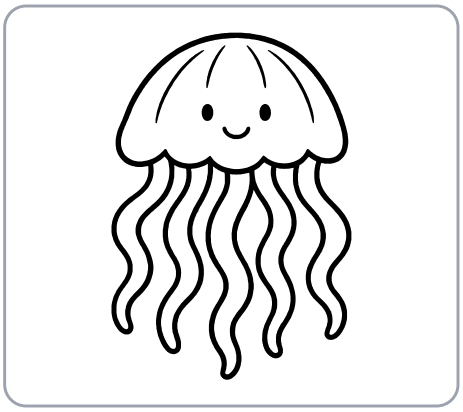
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Name _____ Date _____

Listen and Answer

For the grown-up: read this text aloud. The questions are on the next page.

Jellyfish



Jellyfish have drifted through the oceans for millions of years, since long before the dinosaurs. Yet a jellyfish has no brain, no heart and no bones. Its body is mostly water, so it is soft. Many jellyfish are see-through.

A jellyfish catches food with its long tentacles. The tentacles are covered with tiny stingers. When a small fish or shrimp brushes against them, the stingers shoot out and stun it. Then the tentacles pull the food up to the jellyfish's mouth.

Most jellyfish are not strong swimmers. They squeeze their bell-shaped bodies to move up and down, but ocean currents carry them from place to place.

For the grown-up

Read this text aloud.
The questions are on the next page.

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Name _____ Date _____

Listen and Answer

Listen to the text about jellyfish. Then answer the questions.

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Jellyfish lived with the dinosaurs.

Shrimp live in the ocean.

A jellyfish is a simple animal that stings its food and drifts.

2. Name two things a jellyfish does not have.

_____

_____

3. How does a jellyfish catch its food?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. How does a jellyfish get from place to place?

_____

_____

_____

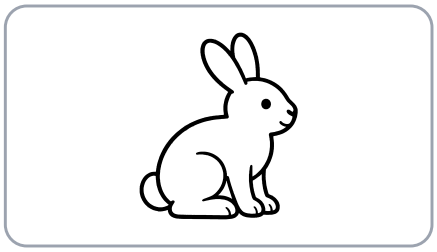
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Main Idea and Details

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Snowshoe Hares



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As the days get shorter in the fall, the hare slowly sheds its brown fur, and white fur grows in its place. By the time snow covers the ground, the hare is almost all white. Only the tips of its ears stay dark.

The hare also has huge back feet covered with thick fur. They work like snowshoes, so the hare can run on top of deep snow without sinking.

---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Foxes and hawks hunt in the forest.

A snowshoe hare's fur changes color so it can hide.

Snow covers the forest floor.

2. Which paragraph tells about something other than the hare's color?

paragraph 2 paragraph 3 paragraph 4

3. What makes the hare start to turn white? Use the text.

The days get shorter in the fall, so it sheds its brown fur and white fur grows in.

4. Give one detail that supports the main idea.

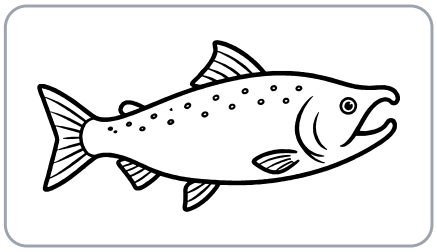
The brown fur blends in with the dirt and leaves, so a fox may not see it.

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Main Idea and Details

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Salmon's Long Trip



Pacific salmon make one of the most amazing trips of any fish. They hatch in a stream, swim all the way to the ocean, and then come back to the same stream where they hatched.

A young salmon spends its first weeks, months or even years in fresh water. Then it swims downstream to the sea. There it eats and grows for one to several years.

When it is ready to lay eggs, the salmon swims back. It leaps up waterfalls and swims against the current. Some salmon swim more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) up a river! Scientists think salmon use their strong sense of smell to find their home stream.

At last the salmon reaches the place where it hatched. The female digs a nest in the gravel and lays her eggs there. Most Pacific salmon die soon after, and their bodies feed the stream and the young fish that will hatch.

---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Salmon have a strong sense of smell.

Pacific salmon travel from a stream to the ocean and back.

Waterfalls are hard to climb.

2. How do scientists think salmon find their home stream? Which paragraph tells you?

They use their strong sense of smell. Paragraph 3 tells me.

3. Which detail supports the idea that the trip home is hard?

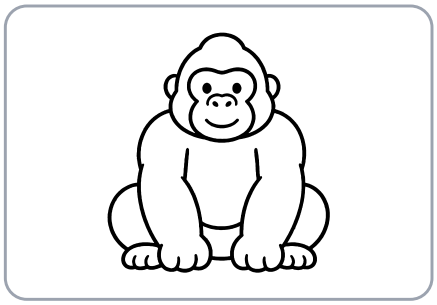
The salmon leaps up waterfalls and swims against the current.

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Main Idea and Details

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Gorilla Families



Gorillas are the largest apes in the world. They live in the forests of central Africa in family groups called troops.

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---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

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Gorillas build nests.

Gorillas beat their chests.

2. Why does a silverback beat his chest?

to find food to call the babies to scare away danger

3. How does playing help young gorillas?

It helps them learn.

4. Give two details that show how gorillas in a troop take care of each other.

The silverback keeps the troop safe. Babies ride on their mothers and sleep in their nests.

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Main Idea and Details

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

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Not a Bear



Koalas live in the forests of eastern Australia. People often call them koala bears, but they are not bears at all. They are marsupials. That means they carry their babies in a pouch.

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Sleepy Koalas

Gum leaves give a koala very little energy. So it saves energy by sleeping. A koala sleeps up to 20 hours a day, often wedged into the fork of a tree.

---

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Koalas are marsupials that live on gum leaves.

Australia has many forests.

Koalas are a kind of bear.

2. Where does a koala get most of the water it needs?

from rain from leaves from rivers

3. Why does a koala sleep so much? Use the text.

Gum leaves give it very little energy, so it sleeps to save energy.

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Listen and Answer

Listen to the text about jellyfish. Then answer the questions.

1. What is the main idea of the text?

Jellyfish lived with the dinosaurs.

Shrimp live in the ocean.

A jellyfish is a simple animal that stings its food and drifts.

2. Name two things a jellyfish does not have.

a brain and a heart (or bones)

3. How does a jellyfish catch its food?

Its tentacles have stingers. When a fish brushes them, the stingers stun it, and the tentacles pull it to the mouth.

4. How does a jellyfish get from place to place?

It squeezes its body to move up and down, and ocean currents carry it.

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