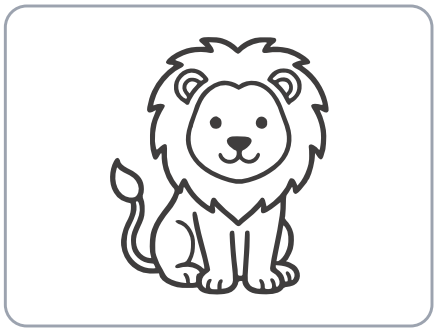
Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Summarizing

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

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.

The Hunters

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.

The Guards

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.

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Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Summarizing

Answer the questions about lions. Look back at the text.

1. This text has two main ideas. What are they?

2. Which detail best supports the idea that lionesses hunt as a team?

Some circle the herd while others wait to spring out.

The biggest lions often eat first.

A pride may include a few grown males.

3. Copy the sentence that tells how far away a lion's roar can be heard. Use quotation marks.

4. The text does not say what would happen to the cubs without the males. What can you infer? Quote a detail.

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

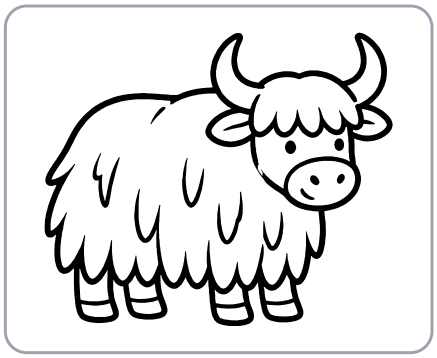
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Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Summarizing

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

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.

Built for the Cold

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.

A Partner to People

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.

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Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Summarizing

Answer the questions about yaks. Look back at the text.

1. What are the two main ideas of the text?

2. Give two details that support the idea that a yak is built for the cold.

3. Copy the words the author uses to compare a yak's coat to something else. Use quotation marks.

4. Why do people in the mountains burn yak dung instead of wood? Quote the text.

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

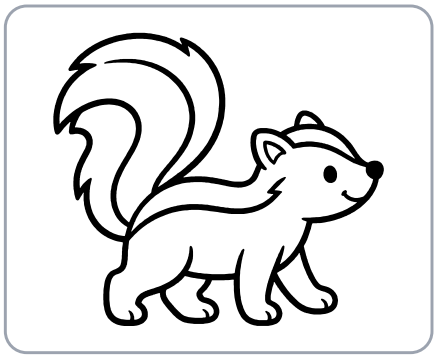
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Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Summarizing

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

The Skunk's Secret Weapon



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

Warnings First

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

A Helpful Neighbor

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

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Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Summarizing

Answer the questions about skunks. Look back at the text.

1. What are the two main ideas of the text?

2. Copy the sentence that tells what a spotted skunk may do. Use quotation marks.

3. Why does a skunk give warnings before it sprays? Use details from the text.

4. What does the author mean by "as long as no one startles it"?

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

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Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Summarizing

Read a nonfiction text. Write its two main ideas and their details. Then sum it up.

Title

Main idea 1

Main idea 2

Details that support it

Details that support it

A sentence I quoted exactly in quotation marks

My summary

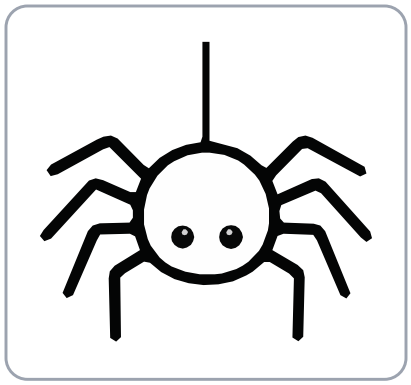
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Name _____ Date _____

Listen and Answer

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

Spider Silk



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

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

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

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

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 spider silk. Then answer the questions.

1. Which two main ideas did the text tell?

Steel is stronger than spider silk.

Spiders make silk for many jobs, and young spiders travel on it.

All spiders spin webs to catch insects.

2. Name two jobs spider silk can do.

_____

_____

3. Why doesn't a flying insect break through a web?

_____

_____

4. Explain ballooning in your own words.

_____

_____

_____

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Main Ideas and Summarizing

Answer the questions about lions. Look back at the text.

1. This text has two main ideas. What are they?

Lionesses work as a team to hunt, and the males guard the pride's territory.

2. Which detail best supports the idea that lionesses hunt as a team?

Some circle the herd while others wait to spring out.

The biggest lions often eat first.

A pride may include a few grown males.

3. Copy the sentence that tells how far away a lion's roar can be heard. Use quotation marks.

"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."

4. The text does not say what would happen to the cubs without the males. What can you infer? Quote a detail.

A strange male might take over and harm them. The text says the males "keep the cubs safe."

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

Lions live in prides. The lionesses hunt together to catch big animals, and the males guard the territory and keep the cubs safe.

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Main Ideas and Summarizing

Answer the questions about yaks. Look back at the text.

1. What are the two main ideas of the text?

A yak's body is built for the cold, high mountains, and people there have depended on yaks for thousands of years.

2. Give two details that support the idea that a yak is built for the cold.

Its shaggy hair and woolly fur trap its body heat, and its large lungs take in oxygen from the thin air.

3. Copy the words the author uses to compare a yak's coat to something else. Use quotation marks.

"like a heavy blanket"

4. Why do people in the mountains burn yak dung instead of wood? Quote the text.

Wood is hard to find there. The text says it is "a land with few trees."

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

Yaks live on the cold, high Tibetan Plateau. Their thick coats and large lungs suit the land, and people use yaks for carrying loads, food, cloth and fuel.

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Main Ideas and Summarizing

Answer the questions about skunks. Look back at the text.

1. What are the two main ideas of the text?

A skunk defends itself with a smelly spray, but it warns first; and skunks help people by eating pests.

2. Copy the sentence that tells what a spotted skunk may do. Use quotation marks.

"A spotted skunk may even do a handstand on its front paws!"

3. Why does a skunk give warnings before it sprays? Use details from the text.

It has only enough liquid for a few sprays, and making more can take up to 10 days, so it saves the spray.

4. What does the author mean by "as long as no one startles it"?

A skunk is a good neighbor unless someone scares it, because then it may spray.

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

Skunks spray a smelly liquid to defend themselves, but they warn attackers first. They also help people by eating insects, grubs and mice.

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Listen and Answer

Listen to the text about spider silk. Then answer the questions.

1. Which two main ideas did the text tell?

Steel is stronger than spider silk.

Spiders make silk for many jobs, and young spiders travel on it

All spiders spin webs to catch insects.

2. Name two jobs spider silk can do.

It makes the frame of a web, and it catches insects (or wraps eggs, or a safety line).

3. Why doesn't a flying insect break through a web?

The silk stretches and slows the insect down, so the web holds it.

4. Explain ballooning in your own words.

A young spider climbs up high, lets out silk, and the wind carries it away.

5. Summarize the text in two or three sentences.

Spiders make different kinds of silk for webs, safety lines and egg sacs. Silk is strong and stretchy, and young spiders float away on it.

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