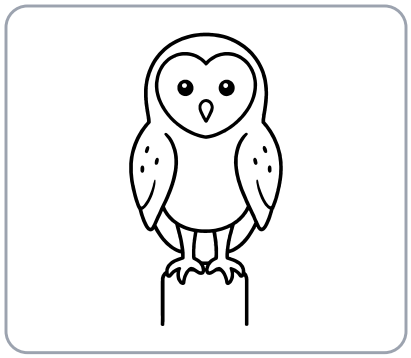
Name _____ Date _____

Reasons and Evidence

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

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.

Expert Hunters

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.

Big Appetites

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.

Easy to Welcome

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.

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Name _____ Date _____

Reasons and Evidence

Answer the questions about barn owls. Look back at the text.

1. What is the author's point?

_____

_____

2. Which reason does this evidence support? One ear sits a little higher than the other.

hunters **appetites** **welcome**

3. Which reason does this evidence support? Farmers put up nest boxes on poles.

hunters **appetites** **welcome**

4. Which piece of evidence best shows that barn owls help farmers? Explain why.

_____

_____

_____

5. Why does the author tell about the tests in dark rooms?

_____

_____

6. What other evidence would make the author's argument even stronger?

_____

_____

_____

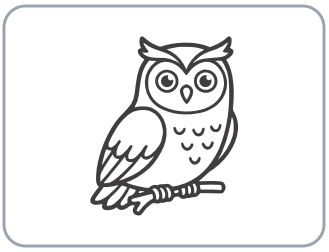
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Name _____ Date _____

Reasons and Evidence

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Leave Some Dead Trees Standing



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

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

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

Of course, a dead tree that could fall on a road, a trail or a house should be removed for safety. But wherever it is safe, a snag is worth keeping.

---

1. Which reason does the evidence about beetles support?

Snags feed the soil. Snags provide homes. Snags provide food.

2. What evidence supports the reason that snags provide homes?

_____

_____

3. The author says some dead trees should be removed. Why might an author admit this?

_____

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Reasons and Evidence

Which point does each piece of evidence support? Circle A, B or neither.

An author wrote about penguins and made two points.

Point A: Penguins are built for swimming.

Point B: Penguins have ways to stay warm.

1.	Their wings are stiff and flat, like flippers.	**A**	**B**	**neither**
2.	A thick layer of fat under the skin holds in heat.	**A**	**B**	**neither**
3.	Their bodies are shaped like torpedoes, so they slip easily through water.	**A**	**B**	**neither**
4.	Penguins are the cutest birds in the world.	**A**	**B**	**neither**
5.	Emperor penguins huddle close together in winter storms.	**A**	**B**	**neither**
6.	Their bones are heavy and solid, which helps them dive.	**A**	**B**	**neither**
7.	One kind of penguin lives on islands near the equator.	**A**	**B**	**neither**
8.	Short feathers overlap tightly and trap a layer of air next to the skin.	**A**	**B**	**neither**

9. Choose one sentence you circled "neither." Explain why it does not support either point.

_____

_____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Reasons and Evidence

Read all three texts about coral reefs. The questions are on the next page.

Text 1 Science magazine

What Is a Coral Reef?

A coral reef may look like a garden of colorful rocks, but animals built it. Most corals are colonies, groups of tiny animals called polyps. Most are smaller than a pencil eraser. A polyp builds a hard cup of limestone around its soft body. Over thousands of years, the cups of millions of polyps pile up into a reef. Tiny algae live inside the polyps. The algae make food from sunlight and share it with the coral. They also give the coral much of its color.

Text 2 Encyclopedia

A City Under the Sea

Coral reefs cover less than one percent of the ocean floor, yet about one in four kinds of ocean life live on or near them. Fish, crabs, sea stars, octopuses and sea turtles find food and shelter among the corals. Some reef fish even help build beaches. A parrotfish bites off pieces of coral to get at the algae it eats, and it grinds up the hard coral. What comes out the other end is fine white sand.

Text 3 News article

Reefs in Hot Water

When ocean water stays too warm for too long, corals become stressed and push out the algae that live inside them. Without the algae, the corals turn white, which is called bleaching. A bleached coral is not dead, but it has lost its main source of food. If the water cools soon, the algae can return and the coral can recover. If the heat lasts, the coral may starve and die. To help, some scientists grow young corals and plant them on damaged reefs.

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Name _____ Date _____

Reasons and Evidence

Use the three texts about coral reefs to answer the questions.

1. Which text tells what gives coral its color? **Text 1** **Text 2** **Text 3**

2. Which text tells why reefs matter to so many animals? **Text 1** **Text 2** **Text 3**

3. Use Texts 1 and 3. Why does losing its algae put a coral in danger?

4. Use all three texts. If the corals on a reef bleached and died, what might happen to the animals and beaches nearby?

5. Explain to a younger student why coral reefs are important and why they are in danger. Use at least two texts.

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Name _____ Date _____

Using Several Texts

Read three texts on one topic. Take notes from each. Then put them together.

Topic

Text 1 title

Text 2 title

Text 3 title

What all the texts agree on

What I understand now, using all three

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Reasons and Evidence

Answer the questions about barn owls. Look back at the text.

1. What is the author's point?

Barn owls are among the most useful birds a farmer can have.

2. Which reason does this evidence support? One ear sits a little higher than the other.

hunters **appetites** **welcome**

3. Which reason does this evidence support? Farmers put up nest boxes on poles.

hunters **appetites** **welcome**

4. Which piece of evidence best shows that barn owls help farmers? Explain why.

One owl eats about a thousand mice and rats a year, so owls remove many of the pests that eat crops.

5. Why does the author tell about the tests in dark rooms?

To prove that barn owls really can hunt in total darkness.

6. What other evidence would make the author's argument even stronger?

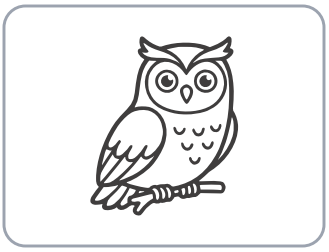
Numbers showing that farms with nest boxes lost fewer crops to mice and rats.

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Reasons and Evidence

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

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

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

Of course, a dead tree that could fall on a road, a trail or a house should be removed for safety. But wherever it is safe, a snag is worth keeping.

---

1. Which reason does the evidence about beetles support?

Snags feed the soil. Snags provide homes. Snags provide food.

2. What evidence supports the reason that snags provide homes?

Woodpeckers nest in holes in them, and later owls, bats and squirrels move in; more than a thousand kinds of animals use them.

3. The author says some dead trees should be removed. Why might an author admit this?

It shows the author is fair and has thought about safety, which makes the rest of the argument easier to trust.

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Reasons and Evidence

Which point does each piece of evidence support? Circle A, B or neither.

An author wrote about penguins and made two points.

Point A: Penguins are built for swimming.

Point B: Penguins have ways to stay warm.

1.	Their wings are stiff and flat, like flippers.	**(A)**	B	neither
2.	A thick layer of fat under the skin holds in heat.	A	**(B)**	neither
3.	Their bodies are shaped like torpedoes, so they slip easily through water.	**(A)**	B	neither
4.	Penguins are the cutest birds in the world.	A	B	**(neither)**
5.	Emperor penguins huddle close together in winter storms.	A	**(B)**	neither
6.	Their bones are heavy and solid, which helps them dive.	**(A)**	B	neither
7.	One kind of penguin lives on islands near the equator.	A	B	**(neither)**
8.	Short feathers overlap tightly and trap a layer of air next to the skin.	A	**(B)**	neither

9. Choose one sentence you circled "neither." Explain why it does not support either point.

"Penguins are the cutest birds" is an opinion, not evidence, and it says nothing about swimming or warmth.

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Reasons and Evidence

Use the three texts about coral reefs to answer the questions.

1. Which text tells what gives coral its color? **Text 1** **Text 2** **Text 3**

2. Which text tells why reefs matter to so many animals? **Text 1** **Text 2** **Text 3**

3. Use Texts 1 and 3. Why does losing its algae put a coral in danger?

The algae make food from sunlight and share it with the coral (Text 1), so without them the coral may starve (Text 3).

4. Use all three texts. If the corals on a reef bleached and died, what might happen to the animals and beaches nearby?

Fish, crabs and turtles would lose their food and shelter, and parrotfish would make less sand, because the corals would be gone.

5. Explain to a younger student why coral reefs are important and why they are in danger. Use at least two texts.

Reefs are home to about one in four kinds of ocean life (Text 2). But warm water can make corals lose their algae and starve (Texts 1 and 3).

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