



Worksheet Set - Reading Comprehension Level 3

SKILLS COVERED:
Reading Comprehension
Word Meanings

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STORY 1

Wolves are perfect parents in many ways. Often after mating the mother and father will live together for the rest of their lives. They work together to build a den in a cave for the new pups. Because wolves are mammals the mother wolf feeds the babies milk. She never leaves the den while the pups are little and helpless.

The father brings food to the mother and guards the den. When danger is nearby, he yelps to warn the mother wolf. Then he leads the enemy away from the den and his family.

Wolves give their young a home, and feed and protect them. When the pups are older they learn how to hunt their own food. Parents teach the wolf pups all the skills they need to stay alive and well.

1. Read the story and circle the correct answers.

How do the wolf parents get ready for their babies?

- a) They pile up meat for the babies.
- b) They build a den in a safe place.
- c) The father builds a den and leaves the mother on her own.

2. An animal that feeds its babies milk is:

- a) a bird
- b) a reptile
- c) a mammal

3. How does the father help care for the wolf pups?

- a) He feeds the pups milk while the mother hunts for food
- b) He brings food to the mother and he guards the den
- c) He stays in the den while the mother goes out to find food

4. What does the father do when an enemy is near?

- a) He yelps when he sees an enemy and runs away and hides
- b) He warns the mother with a yelp and leads the enemy away from the den
- c) He takes care of the wolf pups and the mother fights the enemy.

5. Wolf pups need to learn to hunt:

- a) when they are older and do not need milk
- b) as soon as they are born
- c) when there are enemies in the forest

6. What is the best thing the wolf parents do for their babies?

- a) They build a den
- b) They teach the pups the skills they need to stay alive.
- c) They stay with each other for the rest of their lives.

7. From this story, you can tell that:

- a) wolf babies know how to hunt for their own food
- b) wolf parents should take better care of their young
- c) wolf babies cannot live without their parents



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STORY 1 - BUILDING MY VOCABULARY

1. Read the story and circle the correct answers.
 1. What story word means "mothers and fathers"?
 - a) family
 - b) parents
 - c) pups
 2. The story word "guards" means:
 - a) stays and plays with
 - b) stays and protects
 - c) runs away and hides
 3. What are "wolf barks" called?
 - a) yips
 - b) yaps
 - c) yelps
 4. What story word means "the very best"?
 - a) parents
 - b) perfect
 - c) protect
 5. What story word rhymes with "bought"?
 - a) trapped
 - b) taught
 - c) touched
 6. What story word is the antonym (opposite) of "old"?
 - a) young
 - b) pup
 - c) babies
 7. The root word or base word of "staying" is "stay".
What is the root word of "helpless"?
 - a) help
 - b) helping
 - c) helpful

STORY 2

A rattlesnake uses the rattle on its tail to warn an enemy to stay away. When a rattlesnake is born, it has a hard cap on its tail. The cap is made of a material that is a lot like your fingernails. Each time a rattlesnake grows a new skin, a new cap is added to the end of the rattlesnake's tail. A rattlesnake's rattle is made of a set of hollow caps. The edges of the caps look like rings. You cannot tell how many years a rattlesnake has lived by counting the rings on its tail. This is because a rattlesnake sheds its skin more than once a year and gets a new ring each time. Sometimes some of the rings break off, just like you break your fingernails. When you find a large rattlesnake with many rings you can tell that it is an older snake.

Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. When a rattlesnake rattles its tail:
 - a) it is trying to warn an enemy away
 - b) it wants the enemy to come closer
 - c) it is shedding its skin

2. The caps on a rattlesnake's tail are a lot like:
 - a) your bones
 - b) your fingernails
 - c) your skin

3. When a rattlesnake is born:
 - a) it has one cap on its head
 - b) it has one cap on its tail
 - c) it has no caps on its tail

4. What happens when a rattlesnake sheds its skin?
 - a) A new cap is added to the caps on the end of its tail
 - b) The new cap is not hollow
 - c) It has to grow a whole new set of caps

5. Why do many people count the rings on a rattlesnake?
 - a) They think each ring stands for two years in a rattlesnake's life
 - b) When a rattlesnake has five rings it will die
 - c) They think each ring stands for one year in a rattlesnake's life

6. When sentence is NOT true?
 - a) A rattlesnake sheds its skin more than once a year
 - b) You can tell how old a rattlesnake is by counting the caps or rings on its tail
 - c) Some of the caps or rings on the tail break off

7. From the story, you can tell that:
 - a) you should move away fast when you hear a rattlesnake
 - b) a rattlesnake snaps its teeth to warn an enemy away
 - c) an old rattlesnake does not shed its skin



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STORY 2 - BUILDING MY VOCABULARY

Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. What story word means "empty"?
 - a) thin
 - b) hollow
 - c) hard

2. What story word rhymes with "shake"?
 - a) bark
 - b) break
 - c) beak

3. "Happy" and "sad" are opposites called antonyms.
What story word is the antonym of "friend"?
 - a) warn
 - b) buddy
 - c) enemy

4. What story word means "loses, gets rid of"?
 - a) sheds
 - b) caps
 - c) grows

5. "Playground" and "backyard" are compound words, made of two smaller words. Which word is not a compound word?
 - a) fingernails
 - b) edges
 - c) rattlesnake

6. What word from the story means "the sound a rattlesnake makes" or "a baby's toy"?
 - a) rattle
 - b) shake
 - c) cap

7. Dogs and cats have claws. People have:
 - a) fingernails
 - b) hands
 - c) feet
 - d) teeth

STORY 3

Large neck bones and long legs make the giraffe the tallest animal in the world. Giraffes eat the leaves and branches of thorn trees. They do not seem to mind the sharp thorns as they pull off leaves with their long tongues. They get a lot of the water they need from the leaves they eat. Because giraffes are so tall, they can be seen from far away. However, they have good eyesight and can spot an enemy before it gets close.

Being too tall can be a problem for a giraffe. They almost have to do the splits to get their long legs far apart to drink water in a river. A mother giraffe stands up to have her baby. It does not seem to mind being dropped on its head on the ground. A few minutes later the baby is standing on shaky legs and the next day it can run with its mother.



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STORY 3 - STORY QUESTIONS

Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. What is the main idea of the story?
 - a) A giraffe eats the leaves and branches of thorn trees
 - b) A giraffe can see an enemy before it gets too close
 - c) There are good things and bad things about being the tallest animal in the world

2. What is strange about the food a giraffe eats?
 - a) It eats lion meat
 - b) It has thorns mixed in with the leaves
 - c) It eats the leaves, branches, roots and trunks of trees

3. A giraffe gets most of the water it needs from:
 - a) leaves
 - b) rain
 - c) rivers

4. What is one good thing about being tall?
 - a) A giraffe can be seen from far away
 - b) It cannot eat leaves and branches
 - c) A giraffe can see an enemy from far away

5. How is a long tongue helpful?
 - a) It can pull trees out of the ground
 - b) It can lick its head
 - c) A giraffe can reach more leaves on tall trees

6. What are two problems a giraffe has?
 - a) It gets all its water from a river and it sometimes falls over
 - b) It has large neck bones and it does not see well
 - c) It has a hard time getting water from a river and it cannot lie down to have a baby

7. When a baby giraffe is born, it lands on its head and:
 - a) lies on the ground until help comes
 - b) stands up a few minutes later
 - c) the mother picks it up and puts it on her back

8. From the story, you can tell that:
 - a) there are a few giraffes in Africa
 - b) mother giraffes do not take care of their babies
 - c) it is hard for other animals to catch a giraffes



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STORY 3 - BUILDING MY VOCABULARY

Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. What is the story word for "legs far apart"?
- a) spot
 - b) shaky
 - c) splits

2. What story word is "a part in your mouth that helps you eat and talk"?
- a) tongue
 - b) neck
 - c) eyesight

3. The root word or base word of "trees" is "tree". What is the root word of "shaky"?
- a) snack
 - b) sharp
 - c) shake

4. What is another word for "to see"?
- a) to spot
 - b) to mind
 - c) to stand

5. If it is the month of May, then June comes:
- a) before
 - b) around
 - c) next

6. "Tallest" and "shortest" are opposites or antonyms. What word in the story is the antonym of "together"?
- a) apart
 - b) spot
 - c) dropped

7. What is the tallest animal in the world?
- a) giraffe
 - b) elephant
 - c) whale

8. What word does not belong?
- a) day
 - b) hour
 - c) thorn
 - d) minute

STORY 4

The African elephant has a long drink of water and a bath every day so the herd always travels near a river or lake. One cow can drink as much water as your bathtub holds. An elephant sucks up the water with its trunk and pours the water into its mouth. Until a calf is four or five weeks old and learns this trick, it drinks with its mouth.

Each elephant rolls in the cool mud to cool off. Then it sprays dust all over its body to protect its skin from sunburn and insect bites. If the water in a river is too shallow to cover an elephant, it will use its trunk to have a short shower. An itchy elephant uses a tree for a back scratch.

During the dry time of the year in Africa, elephants use their tusks to dig for water in a riverbed or stream. Elephants can go for a while without food, but like all animals, they must have water to stay alive.

Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. Why do elephants travel near rivers and lakes?
 - a) the air is cooler near a river or lake
 - b) they need a lot of water every day
 - c) they catch fish in the rivers and lakes

2. Which body part acts like a big straw?
 - a) the trunk
 - b) the tusks
 - c) the skin

3. What does an elephant do if the water is too shallow for a bath?
 - a) It looks for a better river or lake
 - b) It uses its trunk to have a shower
 - c) It rolls in leaves

4. How are people and elephants the same?
 - a) We can get a sunburn
 - b) We dig for water in a stream
 - c) We drink our water out of a river

5. What does an elephant use for sun block?
 - a) dust
 - b) tree bark
 - c) mud and water

6. The reason an elephant rubs its back up and down a tree is:
 - a) it is shaking leaves off the tree
 - b) it has an itchy back
 - c) it is angry with a bull elephant

7. The leader has a hard time finding water:
 - a) during the dry time in Africa
 - b) at night
 - c) when she is lost in Africa

8. From this story, you can tell that:
 - a) an elephant can go a long time without water
 - b) an elephant needs food more than water
 - c) when an elephant needs water, it will dig to find it



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STORY 4 - BUILDING MY VOCABULARY

Read the story and circle the correct answers.

1. Which word means "moves from place to place"?
 - a) tusks
 - b) travels
 - c) trunk

2. What story word rhymes with "tower"?
 - a) shower
 - b) slower
 - c) how

3. "Playground" is a compound word and comes from the two words "play" and "ground". What word is not a compound word?
 - a) insect
 - b) bathtub
 - c) sunburn

4. Which word means "not deep"?
 - a) wide
 - b) shallow
 - c) dry

5. "Learn" is the root word or base word of "learns." What story word comes from the root word "itch"?
 - a) scratch
 - b) which
 - c) itchy

6. Which word means "keep safe"?
 - a) protect
 - b) pours
 - c) learns

7. When you have an itch you want to:
 - a) cover it
 - b) scratch it
 - c) wash it

8. Sometimes when it rains, it:
 - a) drinks
 - b) pours
 - c) dries