

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. C
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. Bird's-nest-soup is crafted from swift nests, complemented by elements like eggs, ham, and occasionally chicken and vegetables, creating a savory and complex culinary experience.
7. Swifts produce nests using a substance derived from their mouths, and the unique juice hardens as it dries, resulting in nests with remarkable strength and a delightful taste.
8. Swifts build nests high in caves, requiring intrepid individuals to climb tall ladders to reach them. Once collected, the nests undergo meticulous cleaning before being prepared for consumption or sale.
9. The rarity and labor-intensive nature of harvesting swift nests contribute to the considerable value they command in the market.
10. The global appreciation for culinary treasures like bird's-nest-soup, with its unique and intricate ingredients, adds a layer of richness and complexity to the global tapestry of flavors. It reflects the diversity and exploration of unique tastes from different cultures, enriching the global culinary experience.

Reading Comprehension

11. B
12. B
13. A
14. C
15. B
16. Campers rely on knots for setting up tents or crafting traps.

17. The analogy of shoelaces, tied in a bowknot, resonates with many.
18. Tying strings to bows and attaching heads to arrows.
19. In ancient times, knots were used for practical purposes such as tying strings to bows, and in modern times, they endure in fields like maritime endeavors and medicine.
20. The passage suggests that the enduring and versatile nature of knot-tying has allowed it to meet the evolving needs of different human activities, from ancient practical uses to modern applications in fields like sailing and medicine, showcasing its timeless utility.

Cracking Down a Criminal Activity

21. plume
22. stuff
23. brood
24. nick
25. heap
26. fare
27. swerve
28. verse
29. hoof
30. laugh
31. barge
32. motionless
33. crooks
34. lurk
35. rough

Words needed in the passage:

motionless
 plume
 stuff
 swerve
 hoof
 laugh
 brood
 heard
 lurking

nick
verse
rough
crooks
fare
barge

36. B

37. C

38. C

39. C

40. C

41. The police officers were in no mood to laugh and were surprised by the crooks' escape on hoof. They continued to brood over the situation, likely because it was a dangerous scenario.
42. The faint noise they heard while walking back to their cars prompted them to draw their weapons. They apprehended the man who had a nick on his forehead, believing he might be involved with the crooks.
43. The man recited a verse about the rough life he had led and the choices he had made. He explained that he had been forced to join the group of crooks because he had no other way to fare in life.
44. The officers took pity on the man and decided to go easy on him, likely because they were moved by his words and understood the difficult circumstances that had led him to join the crooks.
45. We can infer that the police officers, while committed to enforcing the law and preventing criminal activity, also showed compassion and empathy when they took pity on the man and chose to go easy on him after hearing his story. This suggests that they understood the complexities of the situation and aimed to balance law enforcement with understanding individual circumstances.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. The sea horse hides in seaweed, wraps its tail around a plant, and patiently waits for the movement of the water to carry tiny sea animals. It then opens a flap on its nose to pull in the passing sea animals.
7. The sea horse employs a stealthy approach by hiding in seaweed and waiting for the movement of the water to bring tiny sea animals within reach.
8. The lack of teeth allows the sea horse to swallow its prey whole, showcasing a unique adaptation in its feeding behavior.
9. Once anchored, the sea horse is poised to engage in its distinctive feeding behavior, utilizing its unique adaptation to capture tiny sea creatures.
10. The sea horse's feeding strategy, employing a stealthy approach and lacking teeth to swallow prey whole, reflects its evolutionary adaptation to the challenges of its relatively slow swimming speed in the underwater environment. This adaptation allows the sea horse to efficiently secure its meals by utilizing the resources available in its habitat.

Reading Comprehension

11. B
12. B
13. B
14. C
15. C
16. The basenji is known to wear a bell around its neck in its African hunting environment.

17. The basenji sports short, pointed ears that stand erect, has a curled-up tail, and distinct lines or wrinkles above its eyes.
18. As a hunting dog, the basenji is specifically tasked with locating animals for hunters.
19. The basenji distinguishes itself by using its acute sense of smell to track prey.
20. The basenji's silent nature might provide an advantage in certain hunting situations by not alerting prey, but it could also pose challenges in terms of communication with hunters. Relying on smell could be advantageous in tracking prey, especially in environments where visibility is limited, but it might have limitations in situations where keen eyesight is crucial.

An Ice-Skating Journey

21. ice-skating
22. rooftop
23. overcome
24. field-trip
25. cardboard
26. afternoon
27. eggshell
28. armchair
29. footstep
30. all right

Words needed in the passage:

field
trip
overcome
footstep
rooftop
all
right
cardboard
eggshell
ice
skating
afternoon

armchair

31. B
32. C
33. B
34. C
35. B
36. Marty felt a sense of confidence and exhilaration as he glided gracefully off the rooftop onto the ice. He experienced the rush of wind through his hair and the thrill of overcoming his fears and insecurities.
37. Marty felt slightly embarrassed when he realized how dangerous his rooftop stunt had been and that his teacher, Mrs. Howard, had witnessed it.
38. Mrs. Howard expressed concern about Marty's safety but ultimately gave him a thoughtful gift. She handed him an armchair upholstered in ice-blue velvet, with a built-in compartment for storing his skates.
39. After receiving the armchair gift, Marty became known as the best ice-skater in his class, and his classmates saw him in a new light, recognizing his skating talent and passion.
40. The armchair gift from Mrs. Howard symbolizes her understanding, kindness, and support for Marty's passion. It suggests that Mrs. Howard is a caring and encouraging teacher who values her students' dreams and talents. Marty's future is likely to be filled with continued enthusiasm and success in ice-skating, thanks to Mrs. Howard's thoughtful gift.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. The airborne spectacle begins with the fish accelerating its swimming speed, culminating in a powerful push from its tail. This burst of energy propels the fish out of the water, and as it breaks through the surface, the side fins unfurl, resembling the wings of an airplane.
7. Unlike the undulating motion of typical fish fins, the side fins of a flying fish remain steadfast, resembling fixed wings in flight.
8. The remarkable display serves as an evasive maneuver to escape predators lurking beneath the waves. By taking to the air, the flying fish effectively eludes the pursuit of fish attempting to chase them.
9. Flying fish can reach heights of almost 300 feet above the water during their aerial display.
10. The adaptation of flying fish to take to the air is an artful dance between the elements of sea and sky for survival. This behavior allows them to evade predators beneath the waves by utilizing the airspace above, showcasing the wonders of adaptation in the natural world and emphasizing the intricate balance between sea and sky for the survival of species.

Reading Comprehension

11. C
12. C
13. C
14. B
15. B

16. Some stingless bees establish nests inside trees, while others use existing shelters abandoned by other insects.
17. Stingless bees craft honey using dead animals, setting their honey apart from traditional floral honey.
18. Stingless bees defend themselves by biting, unlike stinging bees, which use stingers.
19. Nest sizes can vary significantly, accommodating as few as 100 stingless bees or extending to more than 1,000 in larger colonies.
20. The lack of stingers may be an adaptation to reduce their risk of predation while still providing effective defense through painful bites. The ability to use existing shelters and seal off nests with mud or wax could help regulate temperature and humidity, contributing to their survival in hot and humid environments. Crafting honey from unconventional sources might be a strategy to ensure a food supply in regions with diverse floral availability.

Marty's Growth, Triumphs, and Determination

21. mountaintop
22. cornfield
23. earthworm
24. cheerleader
25. ninety-one
26. cornmeal
27. vice-president
28. pillowcase
29. background
30. flagpole

Words needed in the passage:

cornfield
earthworm
cheerleaders
vice
president

mountaintop
background
cornmeal
flagpole

31. B
32. B
33. B
34. C
35. C
36. Marty's passion for ice-skating led him to practice and improve his skills, enabling him to perform incredible tricks and jumps that left his classmates cheering.
37. Marty's determination and resilience were inspired by his encounter with a wriggling earthworm in the cornfield, reminding him of how much he had grown and how far he had come in his ice-skating journey.
38. Marty impressed the cheerleaders by twirling and jumping with grace and ease, and it made him feel like he was on top of the world.
39. The vice-president of the school board congratulated Marty and gave him a bag of cornmeal, conveying the message that Marty was a shining example of what hard work and dedication could achieve.
40. We can infer that recognition and encouragement, such as the vice-president's praise and the gift of cornmeal, had a positive impact on Marty's self-worth and determination. It reinforced his belief in his capabilities and motivated him to continue reaching for his goals with a newfound sense of pride and purpose.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. Hunting for sustenance was a crucial skill for the survival of wild dogs in their early days.
7. They began digging holes to stash away the surplus meat and bones, ensuring a meal during lean times.
8. Dogs exhibiting the behavior of hiding food gained a longer lifespan and passed on resourceful instincts to their offspring.
9. The act of burying a bone by domesticated dogs serves as a reminder of the resourcefulness that defined the early survival tactics of wild dogs, connecting them to their untamed roots.
10. The act of burying a bone in domesticated dogs is a behavior inherited from their wild ancestors. It reveals that, despite domestication, dogs retain traces of their ancestral habits, demonstrating a connection between domesticated dogs and their innate instincts for survival. The persistence of this behavior reflects a small vestige of the wild spirit within domesticated canines, connecting them to a time when ingenuity and adaptability were essential for survival.

Reading Comprehension

11. C
12. C
13. C
14. D
15. B
16. Controlled fires act as natural cleansers, eliminating sick and dead trees, which helps prevent the spread of diseases.

17. Controlled fires target older trees, creating space for new growth and facilitating the establishment of young trees and other plants.
18. The burned organic matter from small fires mixes with the soil, enriching it with nutrients, creating fertile ground for the growth of new trees and plants.
19. Controlled fires clear out dead branches and leaves from the forest floor, preventing the buildup of potential fuel for larger, destructive fires.
20. Eliminating controlled fires might lead to the accumulation of dead plant material, increased risk of diseases spreading among trees, and reduced space for new growth. Ultimately, this could create conditions conducive to larger, uncontrolled wildfires, posing a threat to the overall health and sustainability of forest ecosystems.

A Journey through Nature

21. eddies
22. countries
23. potatoes
24. identities
25. reptiles
26. zeros
27. surroundings
28. losses

Words needed in the passage:

eddies
countries
identities
potatoes
surroundings
losses
zeros
reptiles

29. B
30. B

31. C
32. C
33. B
34. The adventurers tried to keep their distance but felt a sense of awe and respect for the reptiles.
35. The adventurers realized that they were just visitors in the land, and it left them feeling a sense of loss. It shifted their perspective to recognize their place in the natural world.
36. They felt more and more connected to the natural world and gained a newfound appreciation for it. They also saw themselves as a part of something larger than themselves.
37. By the end of their journey, the adventurers viewed modern life as distant and meaningless compared to the raw power and beauty of the natural world, which they had come to appreciate.
38. We can infer that the passage conveys a message about the importance of recognizing our place as visitors in the natural world and gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for the creatures and landscapes that call it home. It emphasizes the idea that humans are part of a larger ecosystem and should respect and connect with the natural world.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as a crowd gathered to witness the mesmerizing aerobatics of an old airplane.
7. Discrimination barred entry to flying schools in the United States for individuals of her background. Undeterred, Bessie set her sights on France, where she could pursue her passion for flight.
8. In 1923, Bessie Coleman showcased her extraordinary skills in an airshow, becoming the first black pilot and breaking through racial barriers in the aviation world.
9. Bessie's ultimate dream was to establish a flying school for African Americans.
10. Bessie Coleman's determination to pursue her passion for flight in the face of discrimination paved the way for future generations of African Americans in aviation. Despite the challenges she faced, her legacy endured, and her dream of establishing a flying school for black pilots eventually came true, leaving a lasting impact on the opportunities available for African Americans in the field of aviation.

Reading Comprehension

11. C
12. C
13. C
14. C
15. B
16. The bolas spider hangs from a silk thread, which serves as both a means of

suspension for mobility and a silk lasso for hunting.

17. The bolas spider fashions a silk lasso with a sticky ball affixed at one end, which it uses to ensnare unsuspecting insects.
18. The elevated vantage point provides the bolas spider with a comprehensive view of its surroundings, enhancing its hunting effectiveness.
19. The bolas spider swings the silk lasso with the sticky ball toward the prey, ensuring a precise and adhesive capture.
20. The convergence of ingenuity suggests that various species independently develop resourceful solutions to the shared challenge of acquiring food. This highlights the diversity of strategies in the natural world to meet common survival needs.

Adventurers' Journey of Exploration and Growth

21. abilities
22. liberties
23. rattlers
24. beliefs
25. taxes
26. fangs
27. rodeos
28. difficulties
29. lashes
30. batches
31. possibilities
32. notches

Words needed in the passage:

rattlers
abilities
liberties
beliefs
taxes
possibilities
rodeos
difficulties

notches
lashes
batches

- 33. B
- 34. B
- 35. B
- 36. B
- 37. B
- 38. The adventurers learned that every creature, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, possesses its own unique abilities and characteristics that make it valuable.
- 39. The adventurers perceived that some people lived freely and pursued their dreams, while others were burdened by taxes and restrictions. They also saw the potential for change despite the challenges they encountered.
- 40. The adventurers were inspired by the tenacity and determination they witnessed at rodeos and events. They saw value in pushing oneself to the limit and recognized the importance of taking on new challenges and overcoming obstacles.
- 41. The adventurers viewed the notches as badges of honor, symbolizing the challenges they had overcome and the progress they had made on their journey.
- 42. We can infer that the passage conveys a message about the importance of recognizing the unique abilities and value in every creature and the potential for growth through embracing challenges. It emphasizes the idea that setbacks and disappointments are opportunities to learn and grow, and pushing oneself to the limit can lead to personal growth and self-discovery.

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. An owl's eyes are in the front of its head, allowing both eyes to focus on the same spot simultaneously and contributing to the owl's exceptional depth perception.
7. Owls compensate for their inability to move their eyes effortlessly by having an incredible range of head movement. This compensatory ability is essential for their survival as it enables them to scan their surroundings without shifting their body, making them adept hunters.
8. Owls exhibit a preference for nighttime activities. As dusk falls, their large, round eyes open wide, and they begin their nocturnal pursuits, utilizing their exceptional night vision.
9. Owls possess exceptional night vision, a crucial adaptation that makes them effective hunters in low-light conditions.
10. The unique features of an owl's eyes, with their placement in the front of the head and large, round appearance, reflect the bird's adaptation for a life of nocturnal hunting. These features provide advantages such as exceptional depth perception, a wide field of vision without moving their bodies, and exceptional night vision, making owls highly effective hunters in low-light conditions. The combination of these adaptations showcases the owl's remarkable ability to navigate and thrive in its natural environment during nighttime pursuits.

Reading Comprehension

11. B
12. A

13. C
14. C
15. B
16. The eyespots detect the presence of objects, and the tiny feelers provide information about the suitability of potential food items, enhancing the starfish's ability to forage efficiently.
17. The starfish envelops the hard shell of the clam with its arms, exerting pressure to pry it open. Once successful, it consumes the soft interior of the clam.
18. After a satisfying meal, the starfish continues to navigate and explore its underwater habitat using its unique combination of eyespots, feelers, and multiple arms.
19. The starfish utilizes its arms as both legs and sensory tools, allowing it to explore multiple locations simultaneously and enhancing its efficiency in foraging.
20. The starfish's unique combination of eyespots, feelers, and arms for efficient foraging could inspire biomimicry in the development of underwater exploration technologies, such as robots with enhanced sensory capabilities for navigation and object detection.

Maya Lin's Artistic Vision and Achievements

21. relied
22. fascinated
23. complicated
24. applied
25. dripping
26. forbidding
27. injured
28. qualified
29. gnarled
30. skimmed

Words needed in the passage:

applied

fascinated
dripping
forbidding
relied
gnarled
complicated
qualified
skims
injuries

- 31. B
- 32. B
- 33. B
- 34. C
- 35. C
- 36. Maya Lin challenges viewers by creating complex and meaningful works that encourage them to rethink their assumptions about the world.
- 37. Maya Lin relies on her creativity and unique perspective to tackle challenges in her artistic work.
- 38. Maya Lin brings a sense of qualified craftsmanship to her work, and she finds new ways to push the boundaries of what is possible in art and design.
- 39. Maya Lin is motivated to continue creating by her unique way of seeing the world and her creative talents. She is always looking for new opportunities to apply her insights to the world around her.
- 40. We can infer that creativity, a unique perspective, and resilience are crucial in the world of art and design. Maya Lin's ability to challenge assumptions, push boundaries, and continue creating despite setbacks underscores the significance of these qualities in her field.