Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 730

1. D a pirate ship

2. B Jack wants Tommy to walk the plank, but Tommy does not want to.

3. C Tommy felt annoyed and thought Captain Jack’s order was unfair.

4. C “[Tommy] could see why Robert Louis Stevenson thought [walking the plank] would be a scary thing.”

5. A While pretending they are pirates, Jack orders Tommy to walk the plank, but Tommy finds a way out.

6. C to order a punishment

7. D because

8. Suggested answer: Tommy quickly ate three chocolate chip cookies after Captain Jack had ordered him to hand them over.

9. Suggested answer: Tommy stages a mutiny - he spins around, kicks Jack’s sword into the air, and then grabs it, declaring himself captain.

10. Suggested answer: Answers may vary slightly but should resemble the following. Tommy decides to become the captain and order Jack to walk the plank because he is frightened of walking the plank himself. He also is clearly tired of taking Jack’s orders, as evidenced by his response to Jack’s order to hand over the cookies. Students may further note that Tommy must have been taking Jack’s orders for a while, since Jack is always captain. They may suggest that Tommy ordered Jack to walk the plank as revenge for his earlier unfairness.
1. C  a British scientist who left his fortune to the United States
2. C  Congress had trouble getting the Smithsonian project off the ground.
3. D  The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest group of research institutions, museums, and collections.
4. A  Natural history has grown to include more topics over time.
5. B  The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History contains exhibits on a wide variety of topics about the earth and its many organisms.
6. C  inspected
7. B  After
8. Suggested answer: Answers may vary but should reflect the text. For example:

Charles Wilson Peale's "Cabinet of Curiosities" was a collection of botanical, biological, and archaeological specimens for display. The collection was large and eventually became known as the Philadelphia Museum.

9. Suggested answer: Answers may vary but should reflect the text. For example:

P. T. Barnum's collection included live attractions and traveled from place to place.
10. **Suggested answer:** *The Smithsonian followed Peale's model more closely. Peale's collection was educational in nature, like the Smithsonian's. Like Smithson, Peale was a naturalist, and his collection included botanical, biological, and archaeological specimens for display. Peale's collection eventually became formally known as the Philadelphia Museum. In contrast, P. T. Barnum's collection was a traveling circus with live attractions, which was more for entertainment purposes.*
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 870

1. C underground

2. B Nymphs make their way to the surface of the earth; nymphs transform into winged adults; adults mate and lay eggs; adults die.

3. A Female cicadas choose mates that have the loudest call.

4. D Different broods on 17-year cycles can emerge at different times.

5. C the life cycle of cicadas

6. D come out

7. A As a result

8. Suggested answer: The life cycle of Brood X is 17 years.

9. Suggested answer: Young cicadas dig into the earth after they are born. They keep growing beneath the earth until the spring of their 17th year. Then they start to crawl back to the surface. To prepare for their return above ground, the nymphs build small cones, like tunnels, that stick above the soil. Soon after they reach the surface, the nymphs shed their skin to grow larger. This process is called molting, and it transforms the nymphs into adults, ready to mate. Shortly after reproducing, they die.

10. Suggested answer: The text suggests that cicadas require nourishment from underground to grow when it states, "...the baby nymphs travel within the earth for nourishment." They need to grow underground until they are almost mature enough to mate, at which point they emerge from the earth and reproduce.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 880

1. What happened to the town of Greensburg in 2007?
   A  It was destroyed by a fire.
   B  It was destroyed by a tornado.
   C  It was destroyed by a hurricane.
   D  It was destroyed by an earthquake.

2. What does this article explain?
   A  how scientists use radar to track storms
   B  how the town of Greensburg was rebuilt
   C  how the system of tornado watches and warnings developed
   D  how cool, dry air moves from the Arctic to the middle of the United States

3. Read this sentence from the article: “Kansans are used to tornadoes.”
What evidence in the article supports this statement?
   A  The tornado that destroyed Greensburg was a mile wide and had winds that were moving faster
       than 200 miles an hour.
   B  A tornado came through Greensburg and destroyed the town 20 minutes after tornado sirens
       went off.
   C  Kansans live in an area of the United States where a lot of tornadoes happen.
   D  “Tornado Alley” has cool, dry air from the Arctic that mixes with warm, wet air from the Gulf of
       Mexico.

4. What might be a reason why scientists track tornadoes?
   A  to encourage more people to use radar technology
   B  to warn people against living in “Tornado Alley”
   C  to lower the number of tornadoes that happen every year
   D  to gather information that is used to warn people that a tornado is approaching

5. What is the main idea of this article?
   A  Tornadoes are dangerous spinning storms, but storm tracking and a system of
       watches and warnings can lessen their danger.
   B  “Tornado Alley” is an area in the middle of the United States where cool, dry air mixes with
       warm, wet air.
   C  The tornado that struck Greensburg threw cars and trucks through the air, pulled homes out of
       the ground, and killed 10 people.
   D  Radio waves give scientists information about approaching storms by traveling from a radar
       unit toward a storm and then returning to the radar unit.
6. Why might the author use headings such as “How do tornadoes form?” and “How do scientists predict dangerous storms?”

   A to make readers think more deeply about the effects of tornadoes
   B to suggest that there is still a lot to be learned about tornadoes
   C to provide information about the pictures included with the article
   D to help organize the information in the article

7. Select the word that best completes the sentence.

   A tornado warning saved many lives in Greensburg ___________ the town itself was destroyed.

   A after
   B although
   C because
   D for example

8. What is a tornado?

   **Suggested answer:** A tornado is a swirling, funnel-shaped column of wind.

9. Explain how radar could be used to track a tornado. Support your answer with evidence from the article.

   **Suggested answer:** Responses may vary in detail but should reflect the information found in the “How do scientists predict dangerous storms?” section of the article. Radar can be used to track a tornado by sending out a radio wave from a radar unit. The wave can travel toward the tornado, bounce off any precipitation around it, and then return to the radar unit. The amount of time taken by the wave to return tells scientists how far away the storm is. By continuing to send out radio waves, scientists can track the movement of a tornado.

10. Could using radar to track a tornado help save lives? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the article.

    **Suggested answer:** Responses may vary, but the information in the text implies that radar tracking is crucial to warning people of impending tornadoes. Because radar technology allows scientists to obtain information about the formation and path of tornadoes, that information can be shared with the public. When people know that conditions are right for a tornado to form or that a tornado has been seen, they can go somewhere safe, such as a basement or storm shelter. Such was the situation in Greensburg on the night in 2007 when the tornado hit. People were alerted to the tornado 20 minutes before it arrived. The alert system “saved many lives” because it gave people time to take shelter.
1. What is a bee?
   A an insect that lives near water and eats fish
   B a red-and-black insect that lives under the ground
   C a flying insect that collects nectar and pollen
   D a crawling insect with two sets of legs and no wings

2. What does this passage describe?
   A wings, legs, mouths, and trees
   B totem poles and winter weather
   C different honeybees in a beehive
   D poison and measurement

3. Different bees in a hive have different duties.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?
   A Worker bees gather food; the queen bee lays eggs.
   B Bee stingers are about 12 millimeters long.
   C Bees have two sets of wings and three sets of legs.
   D The honeybee is probably the best known bee species.

4. Which bees are probably the least important bees in a beehive?
   A worker bees
   B the queen bee
   C female bees
   D drones

5. What is this passage mainly about?
   A honeybees
   B the bodies of bees
   C different types of insects
   D antennae and wings
6. Read the following sentences: "There are over 20,000 known bee species in the world. The best known is probably the honeybee."

What does the word “species” most nearly mean in the sentences above?

A. colors or shades
B. orders or levels
C. kinds or types
D. duties or jobs

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

There is less food available for the honeybees in the hive during the winter; _______, the drones are kicked out.

A. never
B. even though
C. including
D. consequently

8. What does a bee look like, according to the text?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, but students should identify at least one feature described in the passage. Bees are described as usually black-and-yellow insects with fuzzy hair, bodies with three major sections, two sets of wings, three sets of legs, five eyes, two antennae, and a stinger (unless they’re a drone).

9. What are the main duties of worker bees?

Suggested answer: The main duties of worker bees are gathering food, building the hive, and keeping the hive clean.

10. Drones are the first bees to be kicked out of a beehive as the winter months approach. Why might this be? Make sure to consider the role of the drone in the beehive. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the text. Students should indicate that other than mating with the queen bee, the drones do not contribute as much to the beehive as the other bees. Thus, they are the least valuable to the well-being of the beehive and the first to be kicked out.
Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 950

1. B  the wind

2. C  how to safely land his hot air balloon

3. A  Hot air is lighter than cold air.

4. A  a large, open space with no buildings

5. D  a person trying to land a hot air balloon in difficult conditions

6. C  height

7. B  however

8. Suggested answer: Pulling the cord causes the balloon to sink, or decrease altitude.

9. Suggested answer: Pulling the cord causes the balloon to drop because it lets hot air out of the balloon. Without as much hot air, the balloon becomes heavier and starts to sink.

10. Suggested answer: Students could say that it was a good idea, citing the evidence that it was indeed a successful landing, and that he was heading toward the forest where he wouldn’t be able to land. Other students could say that if he had waited he might have found a better landing spot, citing evidence that Rodriguez had a lot of propane fuel, which means he could have kept the air in the balloon hot and could have floated for a long time.