

Comprehension Collection

GRADE 6

REM 171F

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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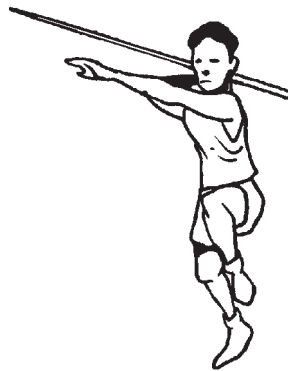
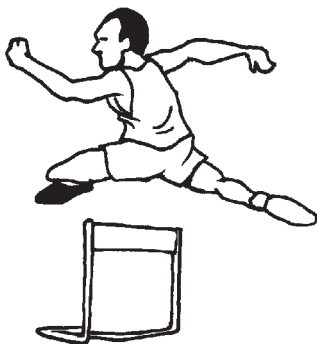


Name _____

TRACK AND FIELD

Track events are running contests. Dashes are the shortest running events. The contestants must run as fast as possible for a short distance. Runs are longer than dashes. The runner begins more slowly but starts to go faster as he or she gets close to the finish line. In the hurdles, the runner must run a short distance, jump over a hurdle, run again and jump again, and so on until the finish line is reached.

Field events are throwing and jumping contests. In the high jump, the object is to see who can jump the highest over a bar. In the long jump, the contestant tries to jump the greatest distance forward after a running start. A pole vaulter uses a pole to help clear a raised bar. Throwing contests include hurling a discus which looks like a heavy metal plate. In the shot put, a person throws a heavy metal ball.



1. Track events are what kind of contests? _____
2. What are dashes? _____
3. Which track event is longer than the dash? _____
4. What are field events? _____
5. The object of a long jump is what? _____

6. In the pole vault, the contestant jumps over what? _____

7. What looks like a heavy metal plate? _____
8. What is thrown in the shot put? _____

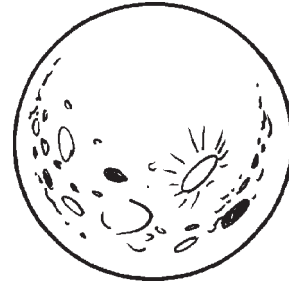
EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Many runners compete in marathons. What is a marathon? Use a dictionary to help find the answer.

Name _____

Why do we have a moon?

Why Earth has a moon is a mystery. Planetary scientists still don't know for sure where it came from.

They do not think that Earth and the moon formed at the same time. They are too different. For example, Earth has a big iron core. The moon has hardly any iron at all. Many other things that are on Earth do not exist on the moon.



The most popular belief now is that an object the size of Mars struck Earth's edge about four and a half billion years ago. Pieces from the object flew into space. Some of them spun together again and formed the moon.

Earth would not be what it is today without the moon. The moon's gravitation helps to keep the Earth steady. Earth's slight tilt is what gives us seasons. The steadiness of the tilt makes the seasons predictable. Without the moon, Earth might wobble a lot more. The result would be unlivable, ever-changing weather conditions.

1. What is mysterious about the moon? _____

2. Earth has what kind of core? _____

3. Draw lines to connect the words with their meanings.

predictable

the central part of something

wobble

not changing; constant; even

core

able to tell what will happen

mystery

slant; lean; slope

steady

to move, sway, or shake

tilt

something not known or understood

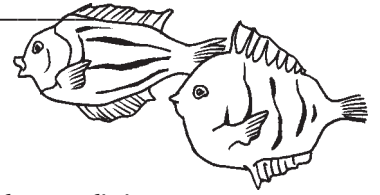
4. A popular belief is that the moon formed how long ago?

5. Why are there different seasons on Earth? _____

6. What might happen to life on Earth if seasons were not predictable?

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Besides iron, name three other natural things on Earth but not on the moon.

Name _____



WHALES AND FISH

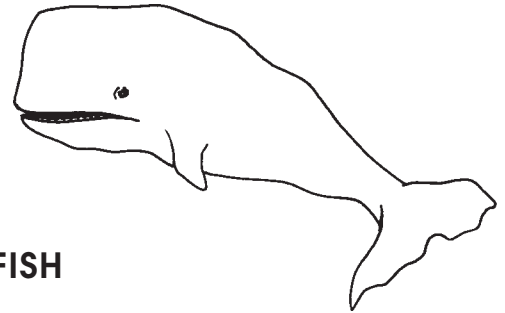
Whales look very much like fish, but they are different from fish. Although both live only in water, the two have little else in common.

A whale is a warm-blooded being, which means its body temperature is always about the same. A fish is cold-blooded. Its body temperature changes as the temperature of the water changes.

Whales have horizontal tail fins. They spread from side to side. Fish have vertical tail fins that are lengthwise with their bodies.

Whales are air-breathing. They must come to the surface of the water to take in oxygen. Fish get oxygen from the water through their gills.

Fish lay eggs from which the babies hatch. Whales give birth to live babies.



Complete the outline with details from the story.

WHALES AND FISH

- I. Body temperature
 - A. Whales
 1. _____
 - B. _____
 1. _____
- II. Tail fins
 - A. _____
 1. Horizontal
 - B. _____
 1. _____
- III. _____
 - A. _____
 1. Air-breathing
 - B. _____
 1. _____
- IV. Producing young
 - A. Whales
 1. _____
 - B. _____
 1. _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Whales are mammals. What does this mean?

Name _____

WHAT ANIMAL AM I?

Read each description; then write the animal's name under its picture.

aardvark

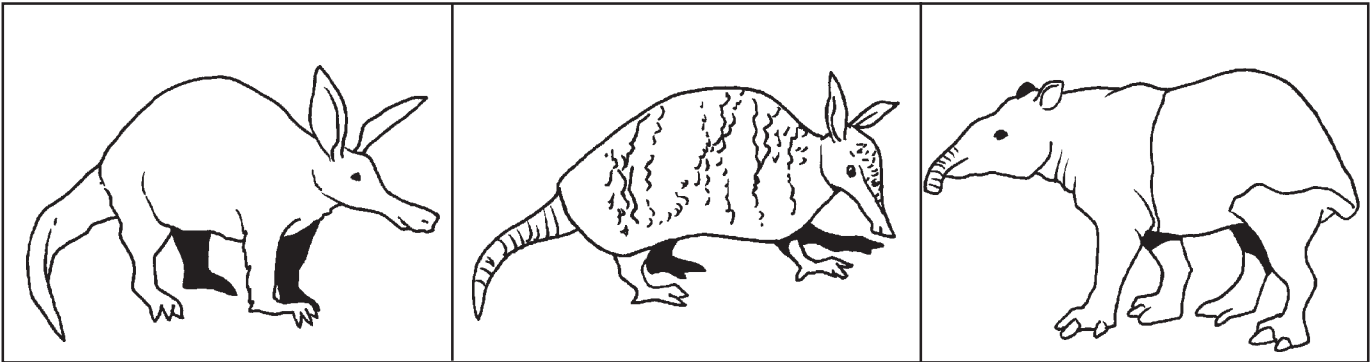
tapir

armadillo

I look like I should belong to the pig family but, actually, I am related to the horse and rhinoceros. I am most active at night and I love very warm climates.

I have strong claws which I use to dig into nests of ants or termites. I use my long, sticky tongue to capture them. I live in Africa. I have no front teeth.

My body is covered with strong plates which are made of bone. These plates protect me from attack by other animals. I eat insects.



1. Which animal would be very unhappy in a cold climate?

2. On what continent would you find an aardvark? _____

3. The tapir is related to what other animals? _____

4. Why is an armadillo's body covered with plates? _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Choose one of the above animals. Write a short report about the animal.

Name _____

ECHO

Long ago in Greece, people believed that there were many gods and goddesses. A favorite was a woodland goddess named Echo. Echo was very fond of talking, and had a bewitching voice that captivated all her listeners.

One day Juno, queen of the gods, was on her way to a very important meeting. She met Echo on her way there. Echo talked so long that Juno missed the meeting.

Juno became so enraged with Echo that she cast a spell on her. Her angry words were, "From now on, you can never be the first to speak, and you will only be able to repeat what someone else has said to you."

At first, the punishment did not seem very terrible to Echo, but then she fell in love with a young man. Since she could not speak first, she could not tell him of her love. The young man thought Echo was making fun of him when she kept repeating his last words.

The young man went away disgusted, and Echo was very unhappy. She hid herself in the rocks and caves of mountains and grew thinner and thinner. At last, nothing was left except her beautiful voice. Even today, if you shout in the mountains, Echo will answer, but you will never see her.



Number the events in the order in which they happened.

- _____ Echo fell in love.
- _____ Juno met Echo.
- _____ Echo became sad when the young man left her.
- _____ Juno was going to a meeting.
- _____ Juno cast a spell on Echo.
- _____ Echo hid in the mountains.
- _____ Juno missed the meeting.
- _____ Echo kept repeating the young man's words.
- _____ Only Echo's voice remains.

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Poseidon was another character in Greek myths. What was his role? Use an encyclopedia or dictionary to find the answer.