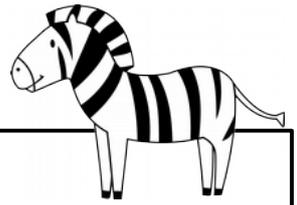


Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Zebra

Zebras live in Africa and are members of the horse family. Each zebra has its own special pattern of black and white stripes. Zebras' striped coats help protect them from predators like lions and hyenas. Zebras can also run very fast and can give a painful kick with their hind legs, if need be. The stallion is the male leader of a herd. He will alert the herd of danger and will remain in the back to protect the **mares** and **foals**.

Zebras are **herbivores** and spend most of their time eating grasses. Zebras use their front teeth to bite the grasses and their back teeth to crush and grind the grasses. So much chewing wears down a zebra's teeth, so its teeth keep growing all of the zebra's life.

1. A zebra's teeth grow all of its life.

true

false

2. A zebra is a member of the _____ family.

bear

horse

dog

3. What do herbivores eat?

plants

animals

fish

4. Name two predators of zebras.

5. Explain how a stallion protects his herd.

What Does it Mean?

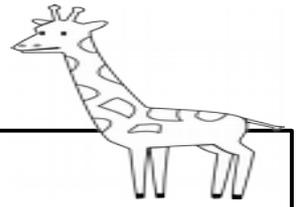
mares – female zebras

foals – young zebras less than a year old

herbivore – animal that feeds on plants

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Giraffe

The giraffe is the tallest land animal in the world and is known for its long neck and its spots. Every giraffe has its own **pattern** of brown spots covering its body. Giraffes also have two skin-covered horns on the top of their head. These horns protect the males' heads when they fight.

Giraffes are **herbivores** and spend most of their day eating leaves. They **especially** like the leaves from the acacia tree. They eat about 100 pounds of leaves a day. Since giraffes are so tall, it is hard for them to bend down to drink water. They get most of their water from the leaves they eat. Giraffes sleep less than two hours a day. They can sleep lying down or standing up. Giraffes live for about 25 years in the wild.

1. Giraffes sleep most of the day.

true

false

2. A giraffe eats about ____ pounds of leaves a day.

50

150

100

3. What do herbivores eat?

plants

animals

fish

4. Name two ways giraffes can sleep.

5. Explain why giraffes get most of their water from leaves.

What Does it Mean?

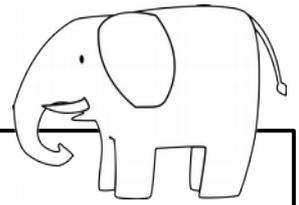
pattern – a repeating design

herbivore – animal that feeds on plants

especially – very much

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Elephant

There are two species of elephants, African and Asian. African elephants are the largest **mammals** that live on land. Females and young and old elephants live in groups called herds. The oldest female is the herd leader. Adult males live on their own. Males are called bulls, females are called cows, and babies are called calves.

Elephants are very smart animals with good memories. They eat all day long. Elephants are **herbivores**; they eat grasses and leaves - about 500 pounds a day. They use their trunk to grab food and put it in their mouth. They also use their trunk to drink water - up to 40 gallons a day! Elephants also have tusks that are made of ivory. They used to be hunted for their tusks, but now hunting elephants is **illegal**.

1. Elephants have good memories.

true

false

2. An elephant eats about ____ pounds of food a day.

500

1500

1000

3. Who is the herd leader?

oldest male

oldest female

youngest male

4. Name two ways elephants use their trunks.

5. Why do you think hunting elephants is now illegal?

What Does it Mean?

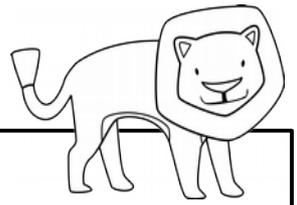
mammal - warm-blooded animal that feeds its young milk and has fur/hair

herbivore - animal that feeds on plants

illegal - against the law

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Lion

Lions are members of the cat family and live in Africa and Asia in groups called prides. Prides usually have five to ten females and their young and two or three males. A male lion and a female lion look different; a male lion has bushy hair around its neck called a mane.

Lions are **carnivores** and eat animals like zebras and antelopes. Lions also steal food that other animals have killed. **Lionesses** do the hunting, but males are the first to eat. When the males are done, the females eat, and then the **cubs** eat what is left.

Male lions protect their pride, but lions do not have to worry about being eaten; no other animal eats them. Lions roar to show how big they are and to warn lions from other prides to stay away.

1. After a kill, lionesses eat first.

true

false

2. Lions are members of the _____ family.

cat

horse

dog

3. What is a group of lions called?

pod

herd

pride

4. Name two reasons lions roar.

5. How can you tell the difference between a male lion and a female lion?

What Does it Mean?

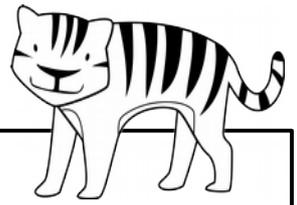
carnivore – animal that eats only meat

lioness – female lion

cub – baby lion

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Tiger

Tigers live in Asia and are the largest member of the cat family. Tigers usually live alone and hunt at night. They are not fast runners, so they sneak up on their prey rather than chase it. Their orange fur with black and white stripes help to hide them while they hunt. Tigers are **carnivores** with very sharp teeth and strong jaws and feed on animals such as buffalo, deer, and wild pigs.

Tigers are an **endangered** species because they have been overhunted and their **habitat** is being used for farming and logging.

In the wild, tigers can live up to ten years of age. In a zoo, tigers can live to be twenty years old.

1. Tigers live in big family groups.

true

false

2. Tigers have orange fur with black and white _____.

patches

spots

stripes

3. Tigers like to eat buffalo, wild pigs, and _____.

deer

grass

seeds

4. What are two reasons tigers are endangered?

5. Describe how tigers hunt.

What Does it Mean?

carnivore – animal that eats meat

endangered – may soon not exist because there are few alive now

habitat – home of an animal

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Gorilla

Gorillas are the largest **primates** in the world. They live in groups called troops in Africa. The troop is led by the biggest and strongest male. The leader protects his troop from enemies by standing on his hind legs, beating on his chest, roaring, and charging.

Gorillas are **herbivores** and eat leaves, fruit, and bamboo. Gorillas spend most of the day eating. At night, they sleep in nests they have made from branches. Gorillas also spend a lot of time grooming. They will pick insects off of one another then eat the insects. Gorillas are smart, gentle, and peaceful animals.

1. Gorillas sleep in nests.

true

false

2. Gorillas live in groups called _____.

herds

troops

tribes

3. Where do gorillas live?

Asia

Africa

Australia

4. What are four ways a troop leader scares away enemies.

5. Describe what grooming is.

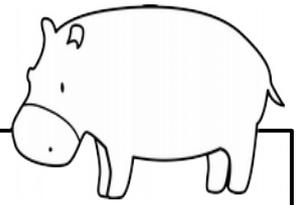
What Does it Mean?

primate – mammals that include humans, apes, monkeys, and related forms

herbivore – animal that eats only plants

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Hippo

Hippos live in groups called herds in Africa. Hippos spend most of the day cooling off in water. The name hippopotamus means “river horse”. Hippos have webbed toes to help them swim and walk better in water. During the day, hippos eat water plants and when it gets cooler at night, hippos come out of the water to feed on larger plants. Hippos are **herbivores**.

Hippos are very heavy animals but still can run very fast and can be **aggressive** at times. Male hippos are called bulls, female hippos are called cows, and baby hippos are called calves. When it is little, a calf will ride on its mother’s back for **protection**.

1. Hippos are very slow runners.

true

false

2. Hippos live in groups called _____.

herds

troops

tribes

3. Where do hippos live?

Asia

Africa

Australia

4. Name one way a hippo calf is protected.

5. Why do hippos spend most their day in water?

What Does it Mean?

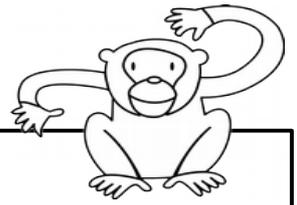
herbivore – animal that eats only plants

aggressive – ready to start a fight

protection – safe from danger

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Monkey

Monkeys are put into two groups: Old World monkeys that live in Africa and Asia and New World monkeys that live in Mexico, Central America, and South America. Old World monkeys have downward noses and New World monkeys have flat noses. Old World monkeys have sitting pads. New World monkeys do not. Old World monkeys can **grasp** things better with their hands, but New World monkeys have tails that can grasp things.

Monkeys are very social animals and travel together in groups called troops. Monkeys **groom** each other to show love. Most monkeys are **omnivores**. They eat fruit and insects.

1. Some monkeys can hold things with their tails.

true

false

2. Monkeys live in groups called _____.

herds

troops

tribes

3. How can monkeys show love?

by grooming

by drinking

by eating

4. Name the two groups of monkeys.

5. Describe how different monkeys grasp things.

What Does it Mean?

grasp – take and hold

groom – clean the coat of

omnivore – animal that eats plants and animals

Name: _____

Read the passage and answer the questions.



Penguin

Penguins live together in groups called colonies. Wild penguins are only found in the **Southern Hemisphere**. Some penguins live in cold places; some penguins live in warm places. They all have dark backs and white fronts to help **camouflage** them. Penguins are birds, but penguins have flippers instead of wings and cannot fly. All penguins are good swimmers. They steer with their tail and feet.

Penguins have a hook on their bill to help catch their food. They also have spines in their mouth to help push the food down their throat. They eat mainly fish but will eat squid and krill, too. While feeding, penguins drink a lot of saltwater. They have a special body gland to take the salt out of the water and then push it out of **grooves** in their bill.

1. Wild penguins only live in the Northern Hemisphere.

true

false

2. Penguins live together in groups called what?

herds

colonies

tribes

3. To help catch food, penguins have a hook on their _____.

tail

flipper

bill

4. How do penguins steer in the water?

5. Describe how penguins get rid of the saltwater they drink.

What Does it Mean?

Southern Hemisphere – below the equator

camouflage – hide or disguise

groove – deep lines