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# SUN



The sun is a star at the centre of the Solar System. It is made up of burning gases. The sun is the most important life source for all living things on Earth. Eight planets orbit the sun.

1 Is the sun a planet?

---

2 Describe what the sun is made of:

---

3 Describe the sun's position within the solar system:

---

4 How many planets orbit the sun?

---

5 What other facts do you know about the sun?

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# MOON



The moon is over 4.5 billion years old. It has no natural light, but reflects light from the sun. It takes 27 days for the moon to orbit Earth. 12 people have set foot on the moon.

**1** How old is the moon?

---

**2** What planet does the moon orbit?

---

**3** How long does it take to orbit Earth?

---

**4** How many people have landed on the moon?

---

**5** What other facts do you know about the moon?

---

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# MERCURY



Mercury is the planet closest to the sun and does not have any moons. It has craters on the surface, similar to Earth's moon. It can be both extremely hot and cold on Mercury. It is the smallest planet.

**1** How far away is Mercury to the sun?

---

**2** How many moons does Mercury have?

---

**3** Describe the climate on Mercury:

---

**4** How big is Mercury?

---

**5** What other facts do you know about Mercury?

---

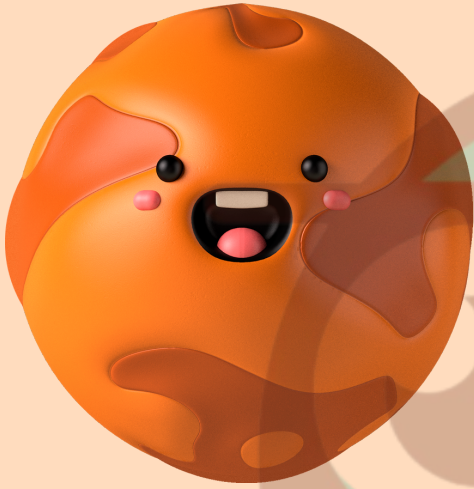
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# MARS



Mars is the fourth planet from the sun. It is the second smallest planet in the Solar System and is half the size of Earth. It has two moons and is red in color due to its iron minerals.

**1** Why is Mars red in color?

---

**2** How many moons does Mars have?

---

**3** How much bigger is Earth than Mars?

---

**4** How many planets are closer to the sun?

---

**5** What other facts do you know about Mars?

---

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# EARTH



Earth is the third planet from the sun. "Earth" means "the ground". It is the fifth largest planet in the Solar System and has one moon. Earth has water, sun and food meaning that life is sustainable on Earth.

**1** How did Earth get its name?

---

**2** How many other planets are largest than Earth?

---

**3** What does "sustainable" mean?

---

**4** Why are living things able to survive on Earth?

---

**5** What other facts do you know about Earth?

---

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# VENUS



Venus is the second planet from the sun and does not have any moons. It is too hot on Venus to explore and has the most volcanoes in the whole Solar System. Venus is Earth's closest neighbor.

**1** How far away is Venus from the sun?

---

**2** How many moons does Venus have?

---

**3** How close is Venus to Earth?

---

**4** Describe the climate on Venus:

---

**5** What other facts do you know about Venus?

---

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# JUPITER



Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun and called a 'gas giant'. It has 79 moons and is the largest planet in the Solar System. It is as big as 317 Earths!

1 How many moons does Jupiter have?

---

2 Is Jupiter larger than Earth?

---

3 How big is Jupiter?

---

4 Why do you think its called a "gas giant"?

---

5 What other facts do you know about Jupiter?

---

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# SATURN



Saturn is the second largest planet in the Solar System and the sixth furthest from the sun. It is called a 'gas giant' and is made up of the same gases as the sun and Jupiter. Saturn has 62 moons. White spots on the planet are actually storms.

1 How big is Saturn?

---

2 How many moons does Saturn have?

---

3 What are the white spots on Saturn?

---

4 Why do you think its called a "gas giant"?

---

5 What other facts do you know about Saturn?

---



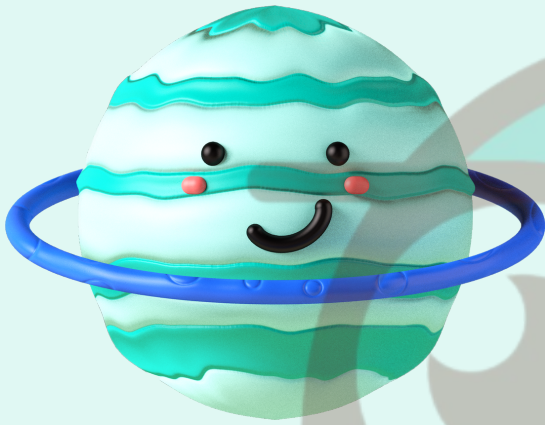
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# URANUS



Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun. It is a gas giant within the Solar System and is made up of a lot of ice. Uranus is the coldest of the planets. It has 27 moons and can be seen from Earth.

**1** How many moons does Uranus have?

---

**2** Describe the climate on Uranus:

---

**3** How far away is Uranus from the sun?

---

**4** Why do you think it is called a "gas giant"?

---

**5** What other facts do you know about Earth?

---

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# NEPTUNE



Neptune is the furthest planet from the sun and is called an "ice giant". It does not have a solid surface because it is made up of gases. Neptune has 14 moons and is blue in color.

**1** How many moons does Neptune have?

---

**2** Is Neptune close or far away from the sun?

---

**3** Why would people be unable to walk on Neptune?

---

**4** Why do you think it is called the "ice giant"?

---

**5** What other facts do you know about Neptune?

---

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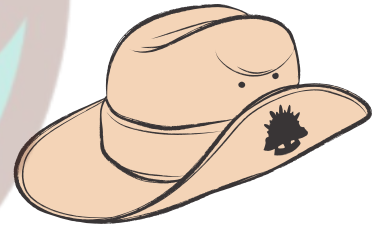
# Reading Comprehension

## ANZAC DAY

Anzac stands for Australia and New Zealand Army Corps. It is a day to commemorate all the lives of Australians and New Zealanders lost in military operations.

Anzac Day occurs every year on the 25th of April. In the early hours of the morning on this day in 1915, the Anzacs landed on the beach in Gallipoli, Turkey. Their aim was to quickly capture the capital city, which was an ally of Germany. But the Ottoman Turkish forces were waiting for them and put up strong resistance, dragging out the mission for eight months until the allied forces were evacuated. During this time, 87,000 Ottoman and 44,000 allied soldiers lost their lives.

The Anzacs received significant praise for their bravery on the beach of Gallipoli in 1915. Today, the Anzac spirit conjures notions of endurance, good humour and mateship.



**1** What does it mean to commemorate? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Explain why some people celebrate Anzac Day at dawn:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3** Describe the character of an Anzac soldier in three words (not used in the above passage):

\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Why is it important for new generations to remember the sacrifice of our Anzacs?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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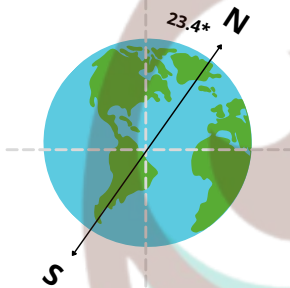
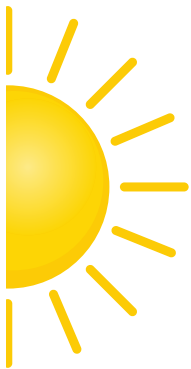


# Reading Comprehension



## SEASONS

Seasons are annual changes in weather. There are four seasons each year: summer, autumn, winter and spring. Each season lasts for three months, and these months are different for those living in the Southern Hemisphere compared to the Northern Hemisphere.



Earth is tilted on an imaginary line that runs between the North and South Pole (called an axis). When the South Pole is facing the sun, it means the Southern Hemisphere is in summer, while the Northern Hemisphere is in winter, facing space. It takes the earth one year to revolve around the sun, and during this time each hemisphere experiences weather changes associated with the amount of sunlight and warmth it receives.

Summer is the warmest in temperature of all the seasons and winter is the coolest. Autumn and spring are shoulder seasons where plants and animals prepare for the warmer and cooler months.

**1** How many months are in Summer: \_\_\_\_\_ Autumn: \_\_\_\_\_ Winter: \_\_\_\_\_ Spring: \_\_\_\_\_

**2** In the Northern Hemisphere, what season does Christmas fall in? \_\_\_\_\_

**3** In the Southern Hemisphere, what season does August fall in? \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Describe some behaviours that plants or animals exhibit in preparation for winter: \_\_\_\_\_

**5** Examine the image of the earth above, and explain why the winter months are generally cold: \_\_\_\_\_

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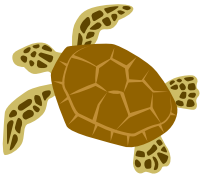
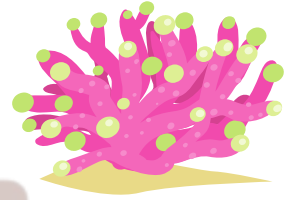
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# Reading Comprehension

## THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef. It stretches for more than 2300kms along the north-east coast of Australia. In fact, the reef is so big, it is able to be seen from space, and makes up a third of the earth's coral population.



The reef is home to thousands of creatures, including birds, crocodiles, soft and hard corals, jellyfish, molluscs, worms, fish, whales and dolphins. It is also home to the endangered loggerhead and green turtles, and the dugong.

The biggest threats to the Great Barrier Reef include rising sea levels as a result of climate change; pollution, cyclones, overfishing; and the invasive crown-of-thorns starfish.

The reef is a huge tourism drawcard for Queensland and Australia. With the average depth hovering around 35 meters (and reaching depths of 2000 meters!), it provides a great marine environment for tourists to enjoy diving, snorkelling and boat cruises.

**1** Name one unique feature of the Great Barrier Reef: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** List four (4) threats to the Great Barrier Reef:

⊙ \_\_\_\_\_ ⊙ \_\_\_\_\_

⊙ \_\_\_\_\_ ⊙ \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Why is it important to preserve the reef? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4** How can the Great Barrier Reef use its tourism appeal to help protect it for future generations?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension

## REPTILES

Reptiles are a classification of animal that have the following distinguishable features: a backbone (vertebrates), breathe air, cold-blooded and are covered in either scales or bony plates (or both!).

Animals that are reptiles include snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, crocodiles and alligators. The largest species of reptiles were the now extinct dinosaurs.

Reptiles are often found basking on warm rocks, or hiding from the sun in the shade. This is because they are cold-blooded and can't maintain a constant temperature inside their bodies, so need to get heat from their immediate environments.

Most reptiles lay eggs except two types of snakes - the boa and pythons. Reptiles don't nurture their young. They lay their eggs and leave. Most reptiles are also meat-eaters.

Reptiles are found all over the world, except in very cold places.



**1** In your own words, explain what it means to be cold-blooded: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** List four types of reptiles:

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

**3** What features of a dinosaur make it a reptile? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Explain why reptiles are not generally found in very cold places? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5** Why is a frog not a reptile? Explain your reasoning. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension

## FLOODS

Floods are a natural occurrence, where large amounts of water submerge normally dry land.

Floods can be caused by several factors. The most common cause is heavy rain that the earth can not absorb fast enough. Other causes include tropical cyclones, tsunamis, high tides or rapid snowmelt.



There are typically three types of floods: Flash floods caused by rapidly rising water due to excessive rainfall; River floods when river banks are breached due to rain or snowmelt; and coastal floods caused cyclones or tsunamis.

Floods can be dangerous. The most common cause of death relating to flooding is drowning. However, they are also responsible for the destruction of property, loss of livestock, increase in water and vector borne diseases and injuries by submerged objects. For safety reasons, no one should enter flood waters.

**1** List the five main causes of floods: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** How can heavy rainfall cause a flood? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3** What are some safety precautions you can take to keep yourself safe from flood waters?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Are there any benefits to flooding?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension

## BIRDS

Birds have several distinguishing features. They are warm-blooded, have backbones (vertebrates), are upright on two legs, lay eggs and have feathers. In fact they are the only animal to have feathers.

Feathers help birds fly and regulate their body temperature. Most birds can fly, except a small few, such as penguins, kiwis, ostriches, emus and cassowaries. The birds that can fly have hollow-like bones to make them weigh less during flight.

Bird beaks come in a variety of shapes and sizes, reflective of their diets. Some eat meat, while others eat seeds, fruits, nuts, nectar or fish. Birds do not have teeth.

Birds are closely related to reptiles and are believed to have descended from dinosaurs, specifically two-legged dinosaurs called theropods, which included Tyrannosaurus rex.

The largest living bird in the world is the ostrich. The smallest is a variety of hummingbird.



**1** Why are bird bones hollow? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Explain why having feathers help to regulate a bird's body temperature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3** What similarities do birds and reptiles share? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Think of a specific bird species, describe its beak shape and size and explain a logical reason for it: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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# Reading Comprehension

## AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians are animals that have the following features: a backbone (vertebrates), cold-blooded, live in both water and on land, and at various stages in their lives breathe with both gills and lungs.

Amphibious animals include frogs, toads, salamanders, newts and caecilians. Most lay soft eggs in water, with their young turning into land-dwelling animals through a process called metamorphosis. During this transition, most develop lungs to replace breathing through gills. Adult amphibians can also breathe through their skin.

Amphibians have special skin that needs to stay moist, and are particularly susceptible to environmental changes. As such, more than half of all frog species are in danger of extinction.

Some frogs protect themselves from predators by having toxic skin, such as the poison dart frog. Others are great camouflagers.



Amphibians are found all over the world, except in very cold places, and remote areas.

**1** What is metamorphosis? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** List two other examples of species that go through metamorphosis:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**3** List two ways amphibians protect themselves from predators:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_



**4** Why are frogs species in danger of extinction? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5** Why are amphibians not generally found in very cold places? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension

## THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is celebrated annually in the USA and Canada. It is generally held on the last Thursday in November for the USA, and the second Monday of October for Canada.



The tradition of Thanksgiving began in Massachusetts in 1621, when Plymouth colonists (called Puritans) and Wampanoag Native Americans came together to share a harvest feast.

The Puritans were English Protestants who were attempting to break away from the Church of England. They travelled to the USA on the Mayflower, carrying 101 men, women and children. With the help of a Native American man named Samoset, the Wampanoag people helped the settlers grow crops and hunt, and a formal agreement was made to protect each other from other tribes. Sadly, the peace they enjoyed did not last forever.



It wasn't until 1863 that Thanksgiving became an annual national holiday. On Thanksgiving, people are encouraged to give thanks and general blessings.

**1** Look up a calendar and determine on which date Thanksgiving falls this year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Who were the Puritans? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3** Why do you think the peace that the early settlers and Native Americans enjoyed did not last?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Why do people give thanks on Thanksgiving?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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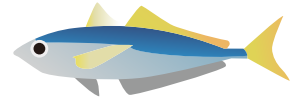
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# Reading Comprehension

## FISH

Fish are cold-blooded, aquatic vertebrates (have backbones). They are covered in scales and lay eggs. Most fish breathe using gills.



Fish are found all over the world - high up in mountains, deep in the oceans, in warm and cold waters, and in fresh and salt water environments. Just under half of all fish live in streams, lakes and rivers, while the rest live in the ocean.



Fish are some of the oldest animals in the world. They have been on Earth since before even the dinosaurs. There are also more species of fish in the world than all of the amphibians, reptiles, mammals and bird species combined. In fact, there are so many species of fish that there are still many more yet to be discovered!

While humans and many other animals like to eat fish, some fish also like to eat other fish. This is why they are so important in the food chain, and need to be protected from over-fishing. Other fish eat plants and algae and even birds! The largest fish in the world is the whale shark.

**1** List four defining features of fish:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Explain one reason why scientists haven't yet discovered all the species of fish on the earth:

---

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**3** Explain what might be the consequence of over-fishing some species of fish: \_\_\_\_\_

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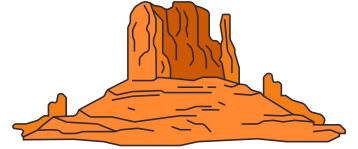
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# Reading Comprehension

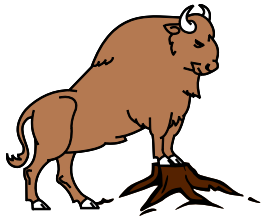
## THE GRAND CANYON

The Grand Canyon is considered one of the 7 Wonders of the Natural World. It is located in the US State of Arizona.



The canyon is not the widest, longest nor deepest canyon in the world. However, it is the second most visited national park in the USA, and popular for hiking, rafting and sightseeing. It is 446km in length, and 29km at its widest point.

The Colorado River runs through the canyon. It is this river that for millions of years has caused rock erosion, forming the canyon. As such, it has become a great site for scientists to study fossil records along the exposed rock walls. The most common fossils found are those of ancient marine life.



The weather changes depending on the elevation. Summers are hot and winters are freezing. The canyon is home to Native American tribes, as well as numerous wildlife, including elk, bison, squirrels, eagles, coyotes, reptiles and amphibians.

**1** In your own words, describe how the canyon was formed: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Why is the canyon an exciting site for geoscientists? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

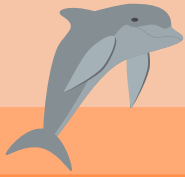
**3** Why do you think the Grand Canyon is such a popular tourist destination, despite not being the largest canyon in the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension

## MAMMALS

Mammals are a diverse classification of animals that include the following distinguishable characteristics: a backbone (vertebrates), warm-blooded, hair or fur, and feed their babies with milk.

All mammals give birth to live young, except two Australian animals - the echidna and platypus, which lay eggs (and are called monotremes). This means that mammals tend to spend more time caring for and teaching their young, than other classifications of animals. Animals that are not mammals include reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds.

Mammals are found all over the earth. Being warm-blooded means they are able to maintain a stable body temperature regardless of their environment. For example, polar bears can survive in freezing conditions, while camels can survive the hot, dry desert.

The blue whale is the largest living creature in the world, and is a mammal. Bats are the only mammal that can fly.



**1** Why do mammals care for their young longer than other classes of animals? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Considering the criteria of a mammal, list four (4) examples that are not mentioned in the above passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

**3** What is the largest animal in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Are humans mammals? Explain your reasoning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5** Name the five classification of animals:

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_



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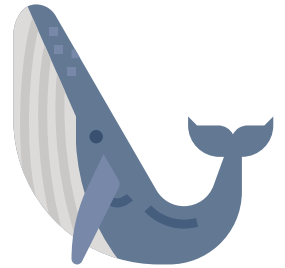
## MIGRATION

Migration is a strategy some animals use to help them survive seasonal changes. They physically move to more optimal climatic conditions, but always return to their original habitats.

Animals migrate for different reasons. For example, monarch butterflies can not survive the cold winter months in their native Canada, so fly to Mexico - several thousands of kilometres away, in search of warmer climates. They then return to Canada in Spring. Others migrate for feeding reasons, such as zebras who relocate during the dry season when fresh grass and water are in short supply. Zebras make the longest migration of all land mammals in Africa.

During Winter, Australian humpback whales migrate to warmer waters to raise their young, and travel south to cooler waters during Summer time to feed on krill and fish.

Arctic Terns make the longest annual migration of any animals in the world. They cover more than 40,000 kilometres a year, chasing Summer from pole to pole.



**1** In your own words, define migration: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Describe two reasons why animals migrate:

⊙ \_\_\_\_\_

⊙ \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Why might grass and water be in short supply during the African dry season? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

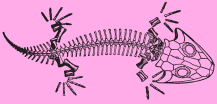
**4** Explain why there is an abundance of food for humpback whales during summer time in the Southern Ocean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension

## FOSSILS

Fossils are rocks. But not just any rock - rocks that include the imprint of something (such as a shell, animal or plant) or, parts or all of an organism which over time, have fossilised (turned into rock).

Fossilization occurs when any hard body organism dies and very soon after is buried by sediments such as sand, lava or tar. The body tissue of these organisms are replaced with minerals which harden into stone. Fossils are quite rare because after death, organisms usually just rot away or are eaten.

Examples of large fossils include trees and dinosaurs. Tiny fossils include specks of pollen and bacteria, which are only visible using a microscope. Fossils are found all over the world.

Fossils are uncovered after landslides, or when a landscape is worn away by wind and water.



**1** Describe how a living organism becomes a fossil:

---

---

---

**2** List two reasons why most organisms don't turn into fossils:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Explain why fossils can help us understand the past:

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TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



# Reading Comprehension

## HIBERNATION

Over Winter, some animals hibernate. Hibernation is when an animal goes into a deep sleep to pass the cold winter. Their body temperature is lowered, and their breathing and heart rate slows down to conserve energy. In fact, some animals look dead when they are hibernating.

Animals hibernate in dark and quiet places such as underground (eg chipmunks, groundhogs, queen bumblebees), tree trunks and roots (eg hedgehogs) or in caves (eg bats and bears). They stay there all Winter, and do not wake until Spring time. This helps them survive the colder months, because during Winter, there is less food available in their environments. During the warmer seasons, hibernating animals prepare for hibernation by eating a lot of food and storing excess fat to keep them alive.

But what about animals who can't hibernate - how do they survive the cold winter temperatures and lack of available food? Some migrate which means they move to warmer climates, such as whales and some birds, while others store food such as squirrels and beavers.



**1** In your own words, define hibernation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Describe two changes that occur in the bodies of hibernating animals:

⊙ \_\_\_\_\_

⊙ \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Why do animals hibernate over Winter and not other seasons? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Why is there less food available in Winter than in other seasons? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5** Why do you think animals hibernate underground, in tree roots or in caves? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension

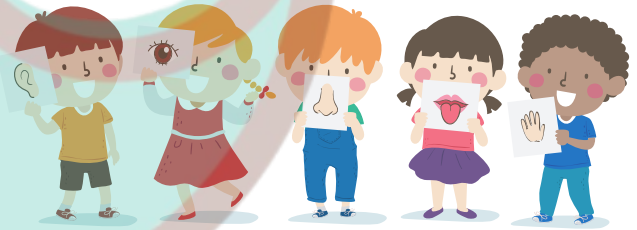
## THE 5 SENSES

We experience the world around us through our five senses. The senses are: smell, sight, taste, touch and hearing. The senses collect information through receptors cells, and send it to our brain.

We smell through our nose, hear through our ear, see through our eyes, touch through our skin and taste through both our senses of taste and smell. Next time you're eating something, hold your nose and assess if it tastes the same. Likewise, when we have a cold and our noses are blocked, our food taste more bland. Our tongues can detect four different types of taste - sweet, salty, sour and bitter.


Certain areas of our skin have more receptors than others, meaning that those parts are more sensitive, such as our lips and fingers.


If someone is not able to use all their senses, they may be blind (can't see), or deaf (can't hear).





**1** How do messages about the world reach our brain? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Describe each of the following using one of the four types of taste: sour, sweet salty, bitter:

 Pretzel: \_\_\_\_\_

 Lemon: \_\_\_\_\_

 Brussel sprouts: \_\_\_\_\_

 Strawberry: \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Name an area of your skin that is less sensitive than another area, and how you know this to be so:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4** If you had to live without one of your five senses, which one would you choose and why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Reading Comprehension



## ST PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He lived during the fifth century, and is credited with having spread Christianity throughout Ireland. He is remembered for the establishment of churches, schools and monasteries.

Patrick's birth name was Maewyn Succatwas. He was born in Roman Britain. As a teenager, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates, taken to Ireland and kept as a slave for six years where he tended to sheep and pigs. After a daring escape, Maewyn returned to Britain, trained to become a priest and changed his name to Patrick. He eventually returned to Ireland as a missionary, and became a Bishop.



Modern day St Patrick's Day celebrations began in the early 18th century. It is believed that St Patrick died on the 17th of March, hence celebrations are observed on this day annually. It was only after the Irish Rebellion in 1798 that the colour green became associated with the day. Many additional secular traditions have become associated with St Patrick's Day since.

1 What was St Patrick's birth name? \_\_\_\_\_

2 Was St Patrick Irish?      YES      NO



3 Why is St Patrick's Day celebrated on 17th March? \_\_\_\_\_

4 Why do you think Patrick is called Saint Patrick? \_\_\_\_\_

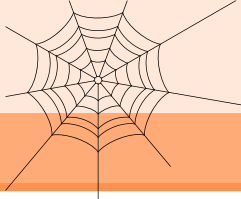
5 Describe any modern day St Patrick Day celebrations that you are familiar with: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



# Reading Comprehension

## HALLOWEEN

Halloween is celebrated annually on 31st October. Although today it has been commercialised to dress-ups, trick-or-treating and pumpkin carving, it had a much darker beginning.

Halloween originated from Samhain, the ancient 'festival of the dead' celebrated in Ireland and Scotland. To mark the end of Summer and the start of the New Year (which the Celts observed as 1st November), pagans would dress up in costumes and light bonfires to keep themselves safe from ghosts and evil spirits. They believed that on this night, the dead and living mixed. Poor children went from door to door promising to pray for household's dead relatives in exchange for food. Samhain is still celebrated today by some, but is different to modern day Halloween celebrations.



Centuries later, the Catholic church declared 1st November as All Saints Day. On this day, people honoured those who have gone to heaven. Festivities incorporated some of the traditions from Samhain.

**1** Use a dictionary to define the word pagan: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Explain how the church attempted to Christianise the pagan Samhain festival: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3** What traditions of the ancient Samhain festival are evident in modern day halloween celebrations?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4** Should we continue to celebrate halloween today? Explain your response:

\_\_\_\_\_