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The Bremen Town Band

A donkey, a dog, a cat, and a rooster were on their way to Bremen to join the Bremen Town Band. They journeyed until the sun was completely gone and the sky was totally dark.	17 29 35
“Look,” the cat called out to her friends, “I see a light up ahead through the trees, so we must be getting close!”	50 58
As they quietly crept through the woods, the light grew brighter and brighter. Soon the animals came to a small cabin in a clearing, but only the donkey was tall enough to see in through the window. “There are two men fast asleep,” he whispered. “And I see bread, cheese, and meat on the table.”	70 85 99 113
The four animals put their heads together and tried to think of a way to get inside. Their stomachs were grumbling and they couldn’t get their minds off the food on the other side of the window. However, they didn’t know that the two men inside were thieves hiding from the police.	128 140 155 165
“Let’s not forget that we’re musicians,” the donkey said. “So let’s earn our food with a performance.” The others nodded in agreement. “Dog,” said the donkey, “you can climb up on my back. Cat, you hoist yourself on the dog’s shoulders. Rooster, you can perch on Cat’s head at the very top.”	178 190 205 217
As soon as the animals climbed into position, they began to teeter and wobble. Then, one by one, the animals raised their voices. The donkey brayed, the dog howled, the cat meowed, and the rooster crowed. It was truly a terrible sound.	230 242 256 259
The two men inside the cabin sprang up from the table. Suddenly, glass shattered as all the animals tumbled into the kitchen and the two terrified robbers ran for the door. They were sure that a monster had crashed in through the window! The two men never returned to the cabin, and the animals never reached Bremen. Instead, they stayed in the house for a long time, and every meal they had was delicious.	272 285 299 312 325 333

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 Where are the animals going at the beginning of the story?
- A to arrest the robbers
 - B to a cabin the woods
 - C to find some food to eat
 - D to join the Bremen Town Band
- 2 At the end of the story, why do the two robbers run away?
- F They overslept.
 - G They hear police sirens.
 - H They are scared of donkeys.
 - I They think a monster has crashed through the window.
- 3 Which pair of words from the story have almost the SAME meaning?
- A hoist, raised
 - B shattered, brayed
 - C grumbling, tumbled
 - D performance, agreement
- 4 What is the theme of this story?
- F Never leave home.
 - G Keep away from criminals.
 - H You can achieve anything through teamwork.
 - I There's no better meal than bread, cheese, and meat.
- 5 List two words that describe the character of the donkey. Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

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Dinosaur Mystery

The team of fourteen paleontologists met in Buenos Aires, Argentina.	10
They drove fourteen hours to the dig site in the rugged land of Patagonia.	24
A dig site is a place where scientists dig for “treasure.”	35
After they set up camp, the scientists quickly began to look for fossils.	48
They hoped to find evidence that dinosaurs had lived in the area but, on the first day, they found nothing. Day 2 was a day that paleontologists dream of but rarely experience. A team member spotted something lying on the ground. Could it be a dinosaur egg? The scientists were absolutely thrilled!	100
They actually found hundreds of grapefruit-size dinosaur eggs that had turned to stone. Now the scientists had two mysteries to solve. Why were so many eggs in one place and what kind of dinosaurs had laid them?	137
The first mystery was fairly easy to solve. Gathering in big groups to lay eggs and protect their babies helped the dinosaurs survive. The scientists knew they had found the nesting site of hundreds of dinosaurs, which covered acres of land. Why had the eggs not hatched?	184
Perhaps the river nearby flooded and buried the eggs in mud. The eggs stayed under the mud for millions of years. If a skeleton of a baby dinosaur had been preserved in an egg, the scientists could solve the second big mystery.	226
A scientist called a <i>preparator</i> spent weeks chipping away the rock around each tiny bone in each tiny egg. She found a tiny skull and some teeny tiny teeth, which she compared to the skull and teeth of adult dinosaurs. The dinosaur’s parents were huge, plant-eating titanosaurs!	273

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 What is one of the questions that scientists had about the eggs they discovered?
- A Why were there so few eggs?
 - B Why were the eggs so small?
 - C Exactly how old were the eggs?
 - D What kind of dinosaur had laid the eggs?

- 2 What is the “treasure” scientists are looking for at the dig site?
- F plants
 - G bird eggs
 - H rare stones
 - I dinosaur fossils

- 3 If *paleo* means old, then what is the meaning of *paleontologists* as used below?

The team of fourteen paleontologists met in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- A very old people
 - B old dinosaur eggs
 - C people who study old fossils
 - D people who study old languages
- 4 Why does the author include information about the work of the preparator in this article?
- F to persuade readers to study fossils
 - G to entertain readers with an amusing story
 - H to show that science can be very glamorous
 - I to explain to readers how scientists identified the dinosaur that laid the eggs
- 5 Why do scientists think that the eggs they found didn't hatch? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

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The Willow Way

Often, as Granna and I sit in her dining room, she tells me a story based on her collection of Blue Willow plates. Each plate is the same, but each story is different—and Granna always says, “That’s the Willow Way.”	16 30 41
I gazed down at the plate in my hands and felt a warm breeze on my face as my eyes slowly closed. When I opened my eyes, there was Princess Yen-Jen, the main character of Granna’s Blue Willow stories!	58 71 80
“Hi,” I said, “I’m Annie. Granna told me you had a little dog named Yi, but in the last story, poor Yi ran away. Would you like me to help you find your dog, Princess Yen-Jen?”	95 112 116
We decided it would be best to split up. Yen-Jen hurried toward the river, and I headed for Ya-sen, the most ancient section of town. As I scurried along, I noticed that the pebbles under my feet were a brilliant blue. I couldn’t resist scooping one up one of the pebbles and slipping it into my pocket.	129 142 156 171 173
I turned onto a deserted street with only one solitary cottage. Suddenly, I heard a little whimper and then a <i>sniff, sniff, sniff</i> . Peeking around the corner of the cottage was a little dog and its yippy barking assured me that it was Yi.	185 199 215 217
Yen-Jen thanked me for finding her dog. “That’s the Willow Way!” I said. Then I noticed that the sun was getting lower in the sky, and blue shadows were forming everywhere around us. Suddenly, Granna was gently shaking my shoulder. Had I really been dreaming this whole time?	230 245 255 265
“Annie, something’s fallen out of your pocket!” Granna exclaimed. I gasped in surprise as I reached down and scooped up a bright blue pebble. When I looked up at Granna, I was certain that I caught a small twinkle in her eyes.	275 289 305 307

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 Who is Princess Yen-Jen?
- A Annie's grandmother
 - B Annie's imaginary friend
 - C Annie's best friend from school
 - D the main character of the Blue Willow stories
- 2 How does Annie know that Yi has run away?
- F She dreamt about it.
 - G She read it in a sign that the Princess had posted.
 - H She saw it happen right before she met the Princess.
 - I She learned about it in the last story Granna told her.
- 3 Which word has the OPPOSITE meaning of the word *scurried* as used below?

As I scurried along, I noticed that the pebbles under my feet were a brilliant blue.

- A raced
 - B rushed
 - C strolled
 - D tumbled
- 4 What happens when Annie holds one of the Blue Willow plates?
- F She falls asleep.
 - G Granna gets very upset.
 - H The Princess asks her to find Yi.
 - I She drops the plate and it breaks.
- 5 How do you think the blue pebble ends up on the floor at the end of the passage? Support your answer with details from the passage. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

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Hiding to Survive

From the icy regions of the Arctic to tropical rain forests, animals find many ways to adapt and survive. All animals have to find food. They have to avoid accidentally becoming a meal for some other animal. One clever way for many animals to survive is by using camouflage.

Camouflage is a kind of disguise. An animal's appearance often hides it from a hungry, carnivorous animal. Camouflage also helps some predators sneak up on their prey. Either way, camouflaged animals use the color or shape of their bodies to make themselves hard to see. These animals amaze us with their ability to trick our eyes.

Camouflage is just one tool that animals use to survive. Many animals remain so still that they seem to dissolve into their surroundings. Some animals, such as bugs, even appear to be something they're not, such as a leaf or a stick.

The zebra of Africa is one of the easiest animals to recognize, with its distinct black and white stripes. The zebra, however, lives on grassy plains. How can its stripes serve as camouflage? When a predator looks at a big herd of zebras from a distance, the pattern of the lines is confusing. For example, the herd will run from a lion. The motion of their stripes makes it hard for the lion to single out one zebra. As a result, all of the zebras may escape from harm.

Camouflage helps the hunter as well as the hunted. Large cats, such as the cheetah, have stripes or spots that help them hide in the grass. This way, they can sneak up on other animals to attack them.

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 What is camouflage?
- A a type of plant found in tropical rain forests
 - B a way for animals to hide in their surroundings
 - C the name used for animals that hunt other animals
 - D the name used for animals that are hunted by other animals

- 2 What is the meaning of the word *carnivorous* as used below?

An animal's appearance often hides it from a hungry, carnivorous animal.

- F not eating
 - G eating meat
 - H eating plants
 - I rarely eating
- 3 Based on the article, which sentence below is TRUE?
- A A cheetah's stripes is a kind of camouflage.
 - B A zebra's stripes are not used as camouflage.
 - C Only animals that hunt are helped by camouflage.
 - D Insects are the only animals that do not rely on camouflage.
- 4 What is the MAIN idea of this article?
- F Camouflage helps animals to survive.
 - G Some bugs look like leaves or sticks.
 - H All animals have to find food.
 - I Zebras live on grassy plains.
- 5 How do a zebra's stripes help it to survive? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

Name _____ Date _____

The Chihuahuan Desert

A desert is one kind of landform found in the United States and in other parts of the world. Deserts are dry places that get little rain. You can identify a desert by the kinds of plants that grow there.	15 30 40
The Chihuahuan Desert spreads into Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. This desert includes Big Bend National Park in Texas and gets as little as seven inches of rain a year!	50 64 70
Many desert plants, such as cacti, have spines or narrow leaves that slow down water loss. Sharp thorns or spines protect these plants—and the water they store from thirsty, hungry animals. The roots of mesquite shrubs grow deep into the ground to reach water. Creosote bushes produce a poison so other plants don't grow near them and take their water.	83 96 108 121 131
The javelina is the only native wild peccary in the United States. A peccary is a cousin to the pig. Javelinas live in the Chihuahuan Desert. If you visit Big Bend National Park, you may smell the javelinas before you see them! They have a gland on their backs that produces a strong smell. It's called musk and javelinas use it to mark their territories.	143 157 171 186 196
These animals travel in groups of six to twelve. They search for food in the mornings and evenings and avoid the midday heat by resting in the shade. They don't travel far from a watering hole.	209 223 232
A javelina has coarse fur that is black and gray. It has a short mane that stands up on its back when it gets excited. Javelinas are tough animals. They can eat anything, even cactus!	247 261 267

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 What is TRUE of a desert?
- A A desert never gets rain.
 - B A desert gets very little rain.
 - C No plants can grow in a desert.
 - D Javelinas are the only animals found in deserts.
- 2 How do the spines of a cactus help it to survive in the desert?
- F The spines store extra water.
 - G The spines help to collect water when it rains.
 - H The spines help the plant to cool off in the heat.
 - I The spines protect the plant from animals in search of water.
- 3 Which word is most SIMILAR in meaning to the word *territories* as used below?
- It's called musk, and javelinas use it to mark their territories.**
- A colony
 - B fear
 - C symbol
 - D turf
- 4 Why does the author include details about the javelinas in the article?
- F to teach people about an extinct desert animal
 - G to teach readers about an unusual desert animal
 - H to teach people how to protect themselves from javelinas
 - I to teach people about the importance of protecting these desert animals
- 5 How do javelinas survive in the harsh conditions of the desert? Support your answer with details from the passage. Write your response on another sheet of paper.