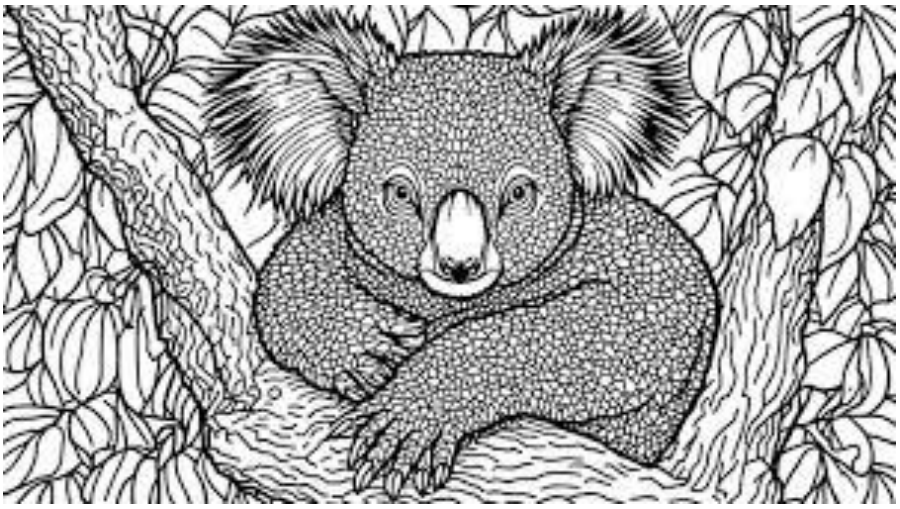
Reading Comprehension Activities

Year 4



Students – Please write answers in your workbook. Do not write on or mark these pages.

Desert Life

Living things need water. A desert is a dry place. It does not get much rain. Things that live in the desert need water, too.

Desert plants get water in special ways. They grow far apart. They do not share the water. Some desert plants have very long roots. They reach deep into the dirt. They get water there. Some desert plants store water in their roots. Some desert plants store water in their stems. Others store it in leaves. They each use the water a little at a time.

A kangaroo rat comes out of its burrow at night to look for food.

Animals live in deserts, too. Camels live in some deserts. When they find water, they drink a lot. They use the water slowly. Desert bats get their water from the food they eat. Many desert animals stay out of the heat. Kangaroo rats hide during the hot days. They eat and drink at night.

Desert Life Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. Deserts are very hot and _____.
   - Ⓐ wet
   - Ⓑ dry
   - Ⓒ cool
   - Ⓓ pink

2. A desert does <u>not</u> get very much _____.
   - Ⓐ sunlight
   - Ⓑ moonlight
   - Ⓒ rain
   - Ⓓ air

3. Some desert plants have very _____ roots.
   - Ⓐ short
   - Ⓑ hot
   - Ⓒ long
   - Ⓓ thin

4. Kangaroo rats _____ during the day and _____ at night.
   - Ⓐ hide, eat
   - Ⓑ eat, hide
   - Ⓒ run, drink
   - Ⓓ hunt, sleep

5. A _____ does <u>not</u> live in the desert.
   - Ⓐ camel
   - Ⓑ monkey
   - Ⓒ kangaroo rat
   - Ⓓ bat

Adapting to the Desert

Living in a desert is not easy. A desert is very dry. It gets less than 25 centimetres of rain each year. Most deserts are very hot in the daytime. They can be very cold at night.

Desert plants and animals have found ways to live in the desert. They have adapted to, or become used to, the desert climate.

Desert plants have ways to get water. They grow far apart. That way, they don't have to fight for water. Some plants' roots spread way out. Other plants have long roots. These roots get water from deep in the soil. Some desert plants store water. They use it slowly until it rains. Some desert plants grow only when it rains. They quickly sprout and flower. They make seeds that will grow into new plants. Then they die.

Desert animals have ways to get water, too. Some animals get water from the plants and seeds they eat. Meat-eaters get water from the animals they eat. Other animals lick the dew that forms at night.

Desert animals have ways to stay cool. Some hide during the hot day. Others dig holes under the ground. Many animals only come out at night.

This elf owl stays cool in a cactus.

Adapting to the Desert Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. Which words describe most deserts?
   - Ⓐ cold and wet
   - Ⓑ dry and hot
   - Ⓒ sunny and cool
   - Ⓓ few plants and animals

2. Deserts get less than _____ of rain each year.
   - Ⓐ 5 centimetres
   - Ⓑ 13 centimetres
   - Ⓒ 25 centimetres
   - Ⓓ 51 centimetres

3. Desert plants and animals learn how to adapt. What does **adapt** mean?
   - Ⓐ live
   - Ⓑ get used to
   - Ⓒ grow
   - Ⓓ drink

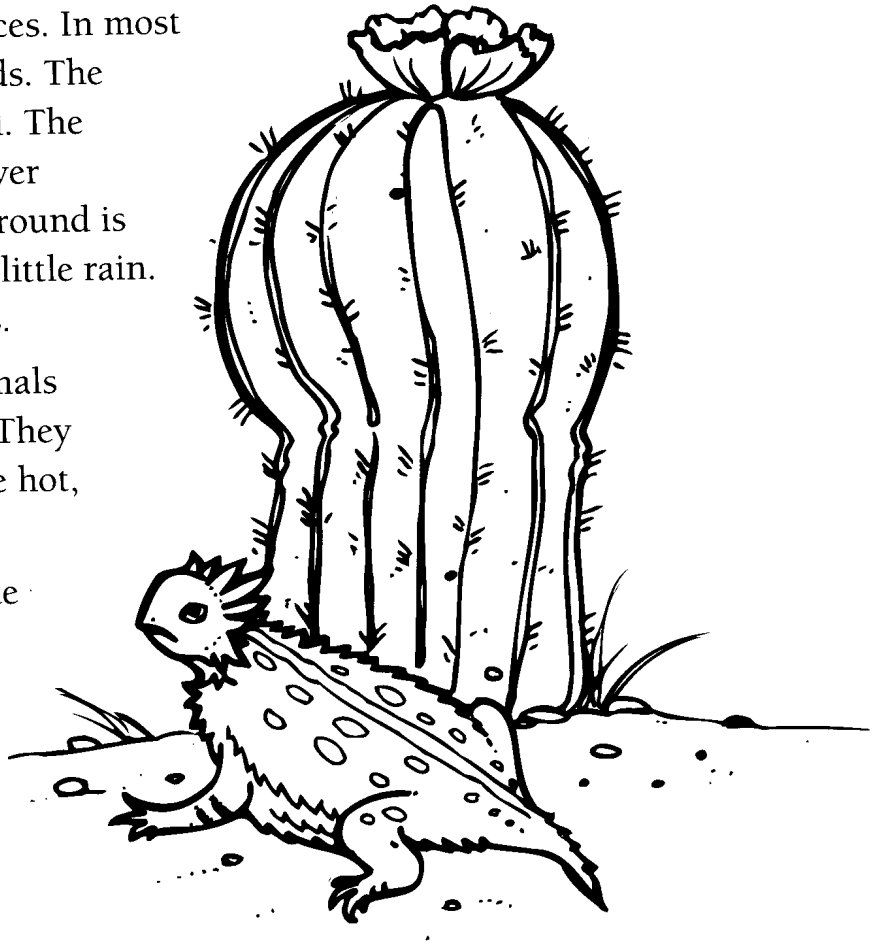
4. Some desert plants get water by having their roots spread way out or _____.
   - Ⓐ curl up into a ball
   - Ⓑ reach up to the top of the soil
   - Ⓒ die on the plant
   - Ⓓ reach deep into the soil

5. A desert animal can <u>not</u> stay cool by _____.
   - Ⓐ going under the ground
   - Ⓑ sitting on a rock
   - Ⓒ licking dew
   - Ⓓ swimming in a pond

Special Desert Life

Deserts are special places. In most deserts, there are no clouds. The sun's rays heat the ground. The air temperature rises to over 38 degrees Celsius. The ground is even hotter. A desert gets little rain. It might not rain for years.

Desert plants and animals are special living things. They have adapted to life in the hot, dry desert.



The barrel cactus and the horned lizard live in a desert habitat.

The roots of a mesquite tree grow as long as 81 metres. The roots get water from deep in the ground. Another kind of plant catches morning dew on its leaves. The dew drips to the ground. The plant's roots soak it up. A barrel cactus keeps water in its stems. The stem swells when it rains. The cactus slowly uses the water until the next rain. It also has sharp spines. They keep animals from eating the plant to get the water.

Camels live in some deserts. A camel can drink up to 114 litres of water at one time. It stores the water in its body. The sand roach gets water from the air. It never drinks. A horned lizard is covered with hard scales. The scales keep him from drying out in the hot sun. The kangaroo rat burrows in the ground to get out of the heat. It comes out at night to eat.

If you go to a desert, look for the many special plants and animals that live there.

Special Desert Life Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. Why is it hot in a desert?
   - Ⓐ There are no clouds to block the sun's heat.
   - Ⓑ Deserts are closer to the sun than other places.
   - Ⓒ Desert clouds push the heat to the ground.
   - Ⓓ The ground is hot.

2. Which sentence describes something special about the mesquite tree?
   - Ⓐ The mesquite tree is in the desert.
   - Ⓑ The mesquite tree has roots.
   - Ⓒ The roots of a mesquite tree grow up to 81 metres long.
   - Ⓓ The mesquite tree needs water to grow.

3. Some desert animals hunt and eat at night because it is _____.
   - Ⓐ easier to find water at night
   - Ⓑ cooler at night
   - Ⓒ special at night
   - Ⓓ darker at night

4. When an animal **burrows**, it _____.
   - Ⓐ eats
   - Ⓑ digs
   - Ⓒ rests
   - Ⓓ drinks

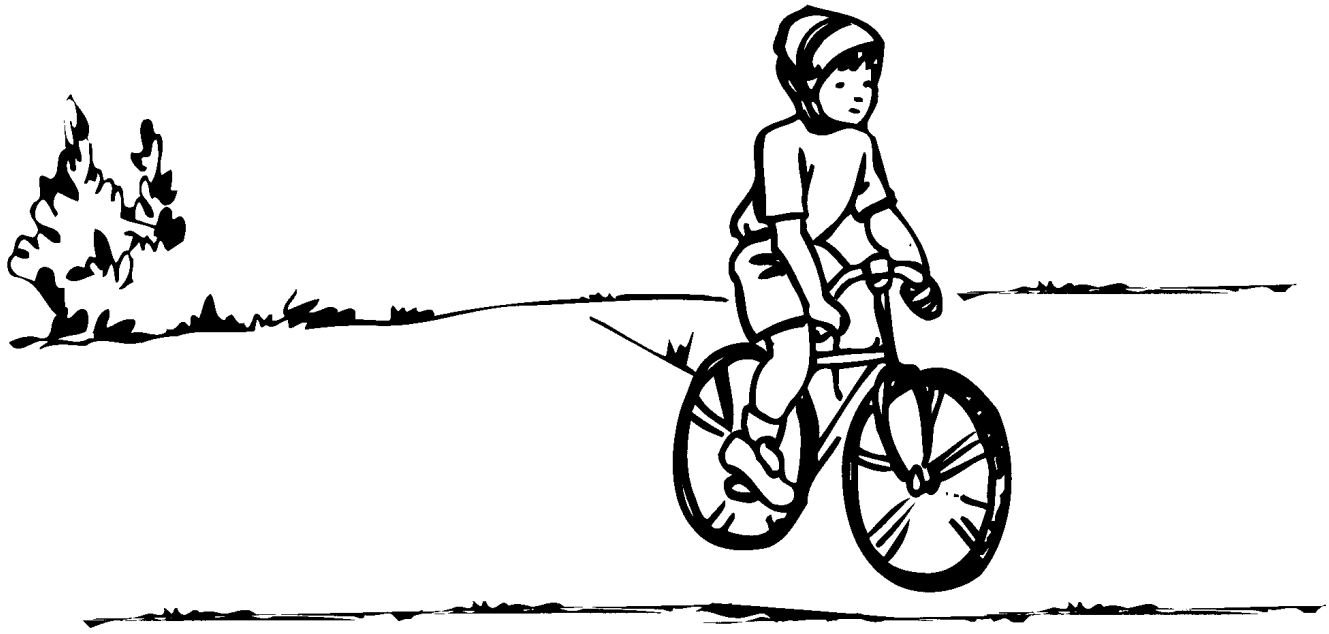
5. How is a camel like a barrel cactus?
   - Ⓐ They are both animals.
   - Ⓑ They are both plants.
   - Ⓒ They both hold water.
   - Ⓓ They both have spines.

Good Exercise

Working on a computer is good for your mind. Reading a book is good for your mind. Walking and swimming are good for your body. It is important to exercise your mind and your body.

Exercise keeps your body and mind strong. It helps your heart. It makes other muscles strong. It makes you feel well.

Exercise your mind every day. Exercise your body at least three days a week. Work for 20 to 30 minutes each time. Rollerblading is a good way to exercise. Riding your bike is good, too. Get up and do something. You can skip. You can dance. Make your body healthy and happy.



When you exercise, your heart gets stronger.

Good Exercise Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. Your muscles get stronger when you _____.
   - Ⓐ eat lunch
   - Ⓑ run in the park
   - Ⓒ read a book
   - Ⓓ take a nap

2. Exercise makes your heart _____.
   - Ⓐ work too hard
   - Ⓑ not beat
   - Ⓒ beat slower
   - Ⓓ grow stronger

3. It is important to exercise _____.
   - Ⓐ only your body
   - Ⓑ only your mind
   - Ⓒ your legs and your arms
   - Ⓓ your body and your mind

4. _____ is good exercise for your body.
   - Ⓐ Reading a book
   - Ⓑ Singing a song
   - Ⓒ Rollerblading
   - Ⓓ Working on a computer

5. Try to exercise at least _____.
   - Ⓐ 3 seconds each day
   - Ⓑ 2 times a week
   - Ⓒ 3 times a week
   - Ⓓ 20 times a week

A Strong Body

There are many ways to exercise. You can exercise with your friends. Play tag. Have a game of soccer. Enjoy a game of basketball. You can exercise by yourself. Ride your bike. Skip with a rope. Swim some laps.

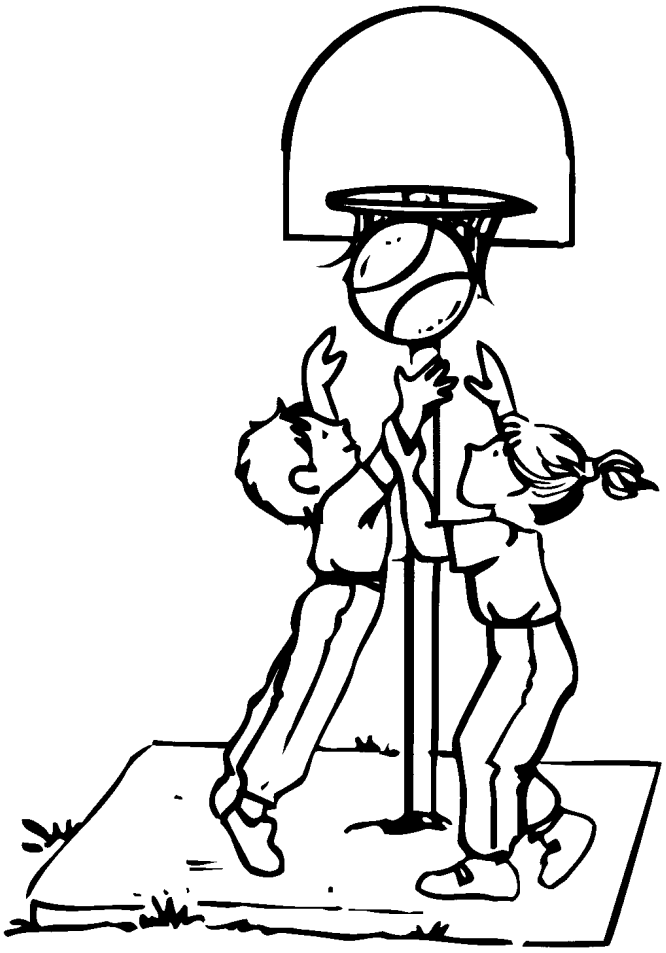
Everyone should exercise. Kids need to exercise at least three days a week. They should exercise for 20 to 30 minutes each time.

Why is exercise important? When you exercise, your heart beats faster. It gets more oxygen. It grows stronger. It even grows a little bigger!

Your other muscles grow stronger, too. When your muscles are strong, you can do hard things. You can run for a long time. You can pick up heavy things. There are different exercises for different muscles. Do you want strong arms? Do push-ups. Do you want strong legs? Ride a bike.

Exercise also helps you have a healthy weight. Your body needs food. It uses the food for energy. But too much food turns to fat. Exercise helps your body turn the food into energy.

Exercise also makes you feel better. When you exercise, you forget about your worries. You feel proud because your body is strong.



Exercise helps your body and mind.

A Strong Body Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. To have a strong body, you need to _____.
   - Ⓐ read a book
   - Ⓑ eat a snack
   - Ⓒ exercise often
   - Ⓓ exercise once in a while

2. When you exercise, your heart muscle uses more _____.
   - Ⓐ blood
   - Ⓑ bones
   - Ⓒ fats
   - Ⓓ oxygen

3. Exercise helps your body _____.
   - Ⓐ keep a healthy weight
   - Ⓑ wear out
   - Ⓒ get fat
   - Ⓓ stay weak

4. Running makes your _____ muscles stronger.
   - Ⓐ arm
   - Ⓑ leg
   - Ⓒ stomach
   - Ⓓ hand

5. How much should you exercise?
   - Ⓐ 20 to 30 minutes each week
   - Ⓑ 20 to 30 minutes three days a week
   - Ⓒ 20 to 30 minutes each month
   - Ⓓ 3 times a day for 20 to 30 minutes

Bones Can Break

Bones are strong. But even strong things can break. You can break a bone by falling off a swing. You can break a bone by slipping on some ice. You can break a bone in a rollerblade crash.

When you break a bone, you need to see a doctor. The doctor will take an X ray. The X ray gives the doctor a map of the break. The doctor will move the bones back into place. Then the doctor will put on a cast. A cast is a special bandage. It is made of plaster or plastic. At first, it is soft. The doctor can wrap it around your arm or your leg. Then it hardens into a shell. It protects the broken bone.

The bone will heal by itself under the cast. The bone will make new cells to cover both ends of the broken parts. The cells will close up the break until the bone is healed.

Next, the doctor will cut off the cast. Do what your doctor says to do. Eat healthy food. Exercise. Your bone will be as good as new.

This girl broke her arm. She wears a sling over her cast.

Bones can break Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. A **cast** is _____.
   - Ⓐ a kind of fish
   - Ⓑ a special bandage
   - Ⓒ a long line
   - Ⓓ a doctor

2. Which one is <u>not</u> true?
   - Ⓐ A bone can break.
   - Ⓑ Doctors take X rays of bones.
   - Ⓒ A broken bone will never heal.
   - Ⓓ A broken bone can heal itself.

3. The X ray helps doctors see _____.
   - Ⓐ cells inside the body
   - Ⓑ bones inside the body
   - Ⓒ the body's skin
   - Ⓓ the cast

4. When the bone is healed, the doctor will _____.
   - Ⓐ leave the cast on for a year
   - Ⓑ give the cast a bath
   - Ⓒ tell you to stand on your head
   - Ⓓ cut off the cast

5. After a broken bone is healed, you should _____.
   - Ⓐ never run again
   - Ⓑ always sit down
   - Ⓒ eat healthy food and exercise
   - Ⓓ stop sleeping

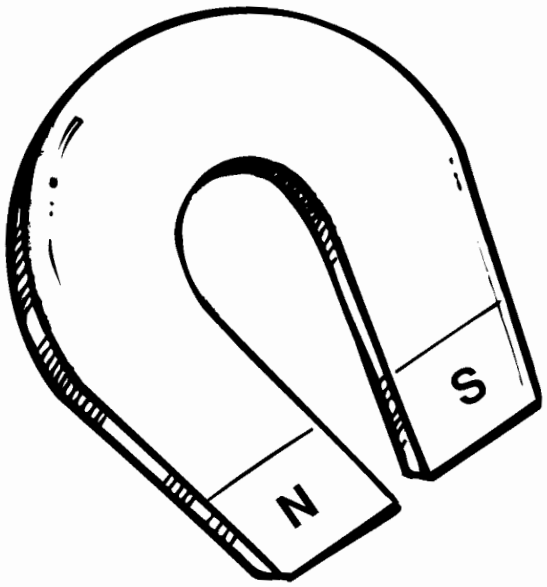
About Magnets

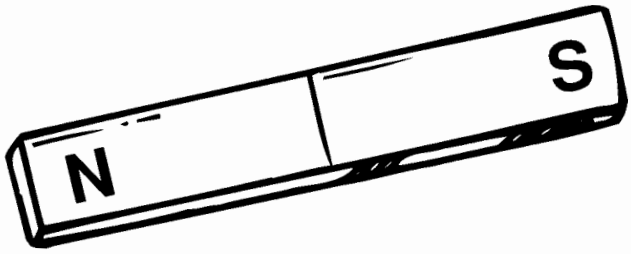
Think about your kitchen. Is there a magnet on your refrigerator? Why is it there? What is a magnet?

A magnet can attract some metal things. This means it pulls the things to itself. It has a force that you cannot see.

Magnets come in many shapes and sizes. Some magnets are small. You might have small magnets on your refrigerator. Some magnets are big. Very big magnets attract and lift things like buses and train carriages.

Every magnet has a north pole and a south pole. Some magnets have labels on them. **N** means north pole. **S** means south pole. A magnet can attract another magnet. The north pole of one magnet will attract the south pole of another magnet. Two like, or the same, poles push away from each other.





About Magnets Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. A magnet has _____.
   - Ⓐ tape
   - Ⓑ force
   - Ⓒ kitchen
   - Ⓓ shapes

2. A magnet can attract _____.
   - Ⓐ a nail
   - Ⓑ a log
   - Ⓒ a shoe
   - Ⓓ a pencil

3. All magnets have a _____ pole.
   - Ⓐ top and bottom
   - Ⓑ north and south
   - Ⓒ east and west
   - Ⓓ long and short

4. Magnets come in all shapes and _____.
   - Ⓐ poles
   - Ⓑ squares
   - Ⓒ metals
   - Ⓓ sizes

5. A magnet's north pole will attract the _____ pole of another magnet.
   - Ⓐ north
   - Ⓑ top
   - Ⓒ south
   - Ⓓ small

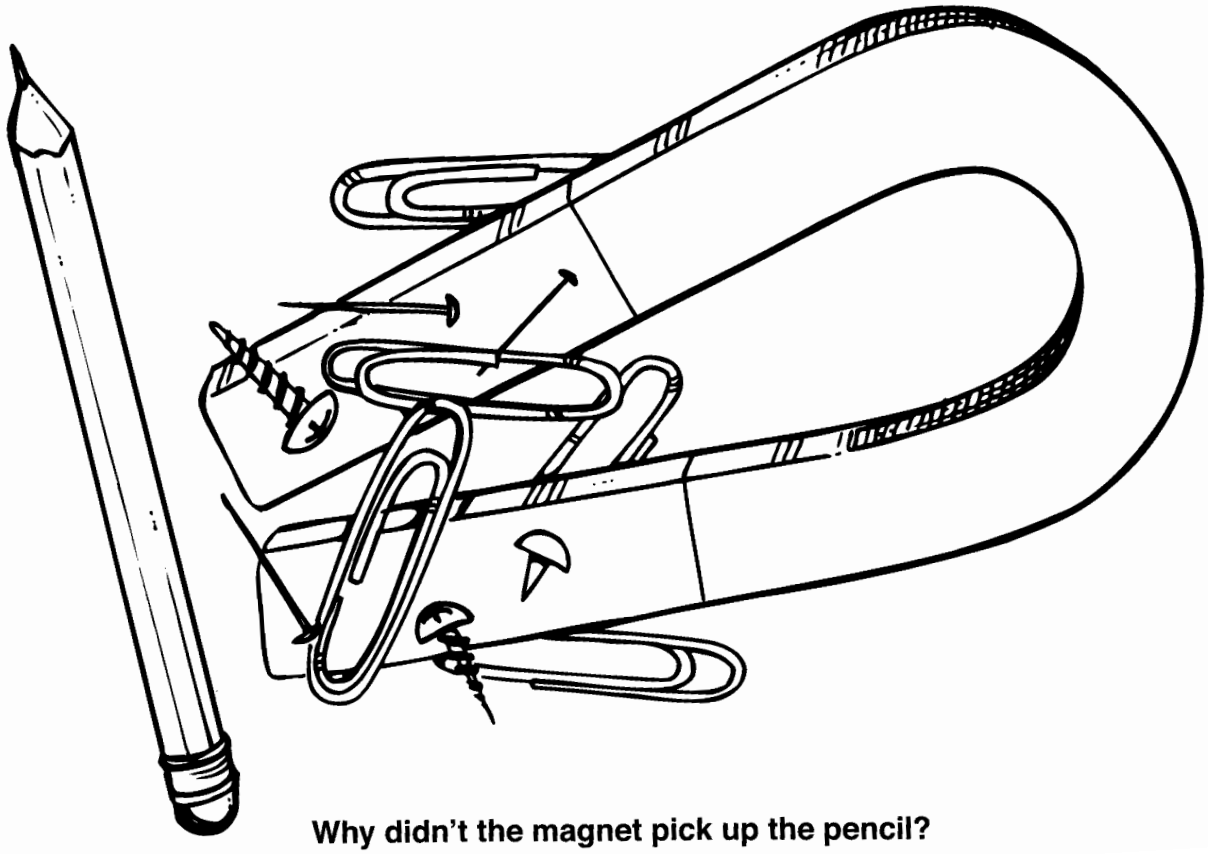
All About Magnets

Magnets can attract, or pull, things. They have a force that you cannot see. It is called a magnetic field. The force pulls, or attracts, some things to the magnet. A magnet will attract things made of certain metals.

The ends of a magnet are called poles. One pole is the north pole. The other is the south pole. The north pole of one magnet will attract the south pole of another magnet. Two north poles will repel, or push away, each other. Two south poles will repel each other, too.

Magnets have many uses. You can find them in many places at your house. Do you have magnets on your refrigerator? Some cupboard doors have magnets to keep them shut. Magnets are also in motors. These motors can run washing machines and blenders. Special magnets are also in tape players, VCRs, and TVs.

Magnets come in many shapes. They can be round, long, or U-shaped. Magnets come in many sizes. Small magnets can be found in your kitchen. Large magnets are used to pick up very heavy things. They are all useful.



Why didn't the magnet pick up the pencil?

All about Magnets Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. Which group of things would a magnet attract?
   Ⓐ a paper clip, a nail, an eraser
   Ⓑ a paper clip, a nail, a pencil
   Ⓒ a nail, a staple, an eraser
   Ⓓ a nail, a staple, a paper clip

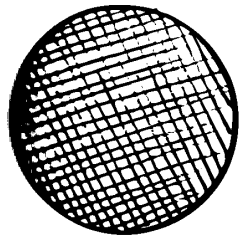
2. The force around a magnet is called _____.
   Ⓐ the south pole
   Ⓑ the north pole
   Ⓒ the magnetic field
   Ⓓ the magnet strength

3. The north pole of one magnet will attract the _____ pole of another magnet.
   Ⓐ north
   Ⓑ south
   Ⓒ top
   Ⓓ metal

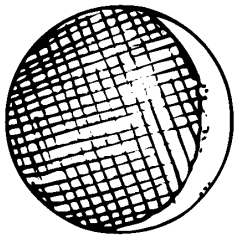
4. Why are magnets used on some cupboard doors?
   Ⓐ They can be shaped like horseshoes.
   Ⓑ They attract each other to hold the door shut.
   Ⓒ They are in motors.
   Ⓓ They are found in kitchens.

5. **Repel** means to _____.
   Ⓐ push away
   Ⓑ attract
   Ⓒ pull
   Ⓓ run

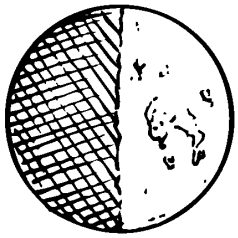
Phases of the Moon



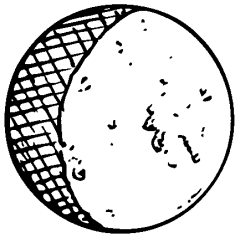
new moon



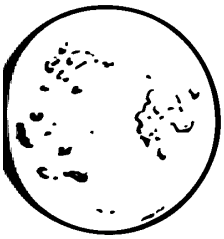
crescent moon



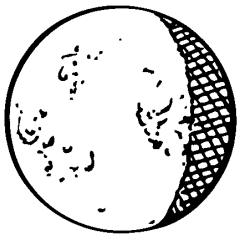
quarter moon



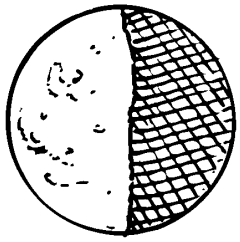
gibbous moon



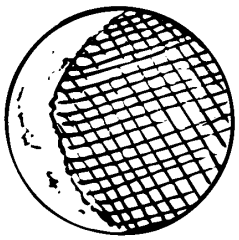
full moon



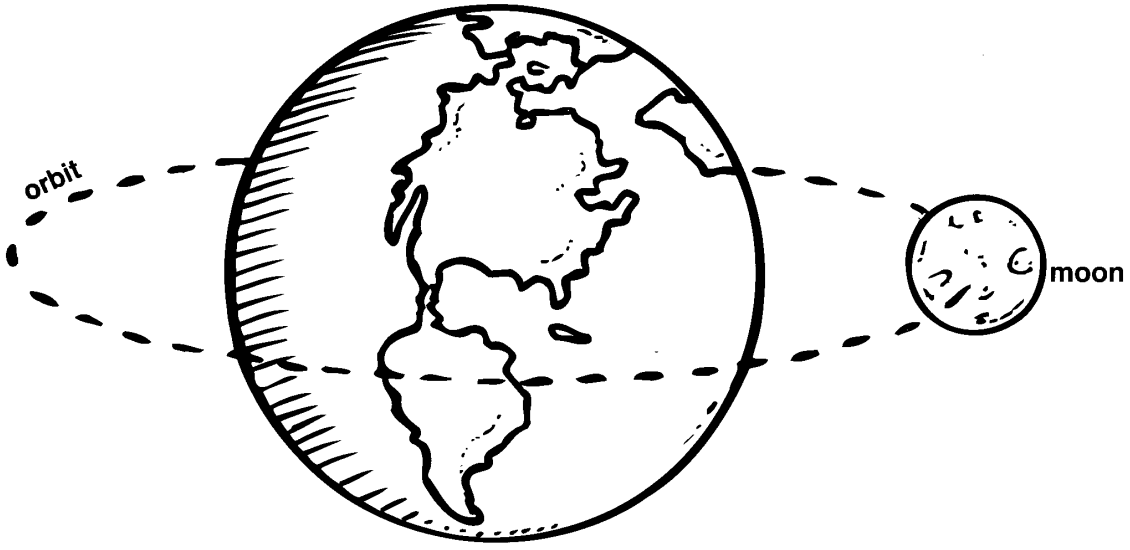
gibbous moon



quarter moon

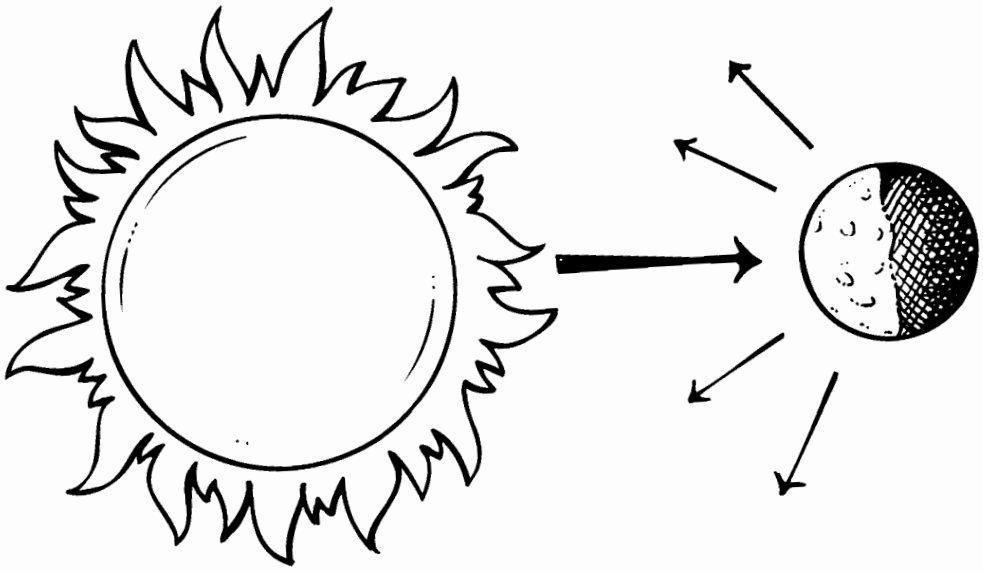


crescent moon



Sunlight on the Moon

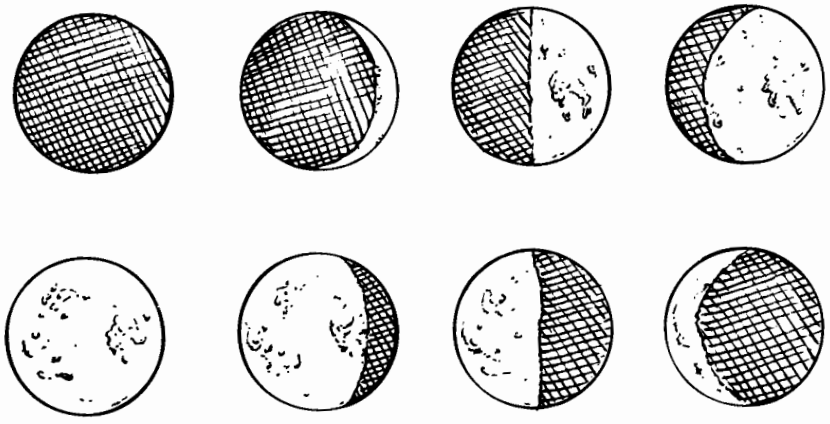
There is an old song. The words say, "I see the moon. The moon sees me.... Please let the light that shines on me, shine on the one I love." You see the moon in the sky. The light shines down. But the light is not moonlight. The moon does not make its own light. Its light comes from the sun. The moon reflects the sun's light.



The moon reflects sunlight.

Watch the moon for a month. It seems to change shape. The shape does not change. The amount of light you see changes. This makes the shape seem to change. The way we see the moon changes in a pattern. The pattern is repeated each month of the year.

"I see the moon...."



The amount of light reflected changes as the moon moves around Earth.

Sunlight on the Moon Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. The moon _____.
   - Ⓐ always changes shape
   - Ⓑ changes shape each day
   - Ⓒ changes shape each month
   - Ⓓ looks like it changes shape

2. The moon _____.
   - Ⓐ reflects the sun's light
   - Ⓑ makes its own light
   - Ⓒ gets light from other planets
   - Ⓓ blocks light from the sun

3. The moon is always _____.
   - Ⓐ changing
   - Ⓑ moving
   - Ⓒ shining
   - Ⓓ hiding

4. The phases of the moon follow _____.
   - Ⓐ a pattern
   - Ⓑ the sun
   - Ⓒ Earth
   - Ⓓ sunlight

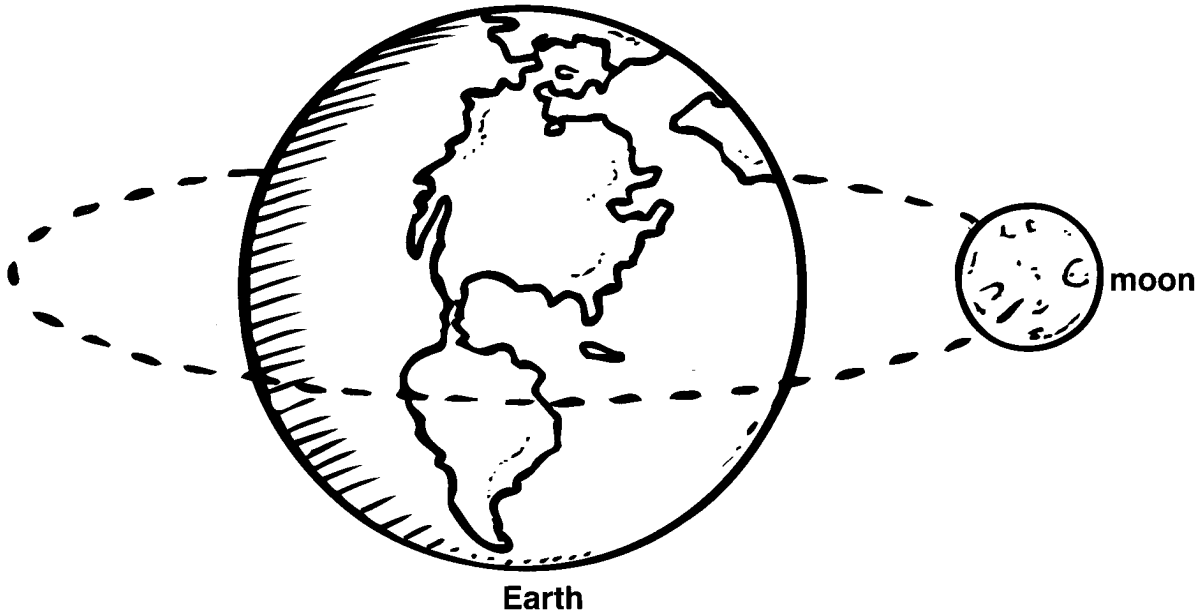
5. The moon circles Earth one time every _____.
   - Ⓐ day
   - Ⓑ night
   - Ⓒ month
   - Ⓓ year

The Moon's Many Faces

We observe a bright moon in the sky as it circles Earth each month. The moon doesn't make its own light. We see sunlight reflected on the moon. Because the moon moves and the sun does not, the amount of reflected sunlight we see changes. This makes the moon appear to change shape. These shapes are called the phases of the moon.

When the moon is between Earth and the sun, the sun shines on the part of the moon we can't see, so we can't see the sunlight on the moon. This phase is called a new moon. As the moon moves, we gradually see more and more sunlight on it. Soon the moon is C-shaped, and we have a crescent moon. The moon keeps orbiting around Earth. When we see half of the side facing us, the phase is called a quarter moon. The next phase is a gibbous moon. This is when we see more than half of the moon. Then the entire side shows and we have a full moon.

During a full moon, the moon has travelled halfway around Earth. As it returns to its starting point, we see less sunlight on the moon. We see a gibbous, a quarter, a crescent, and then a new moon. The cycle then repeats every month.



The moon orbits Earth every month.

The Moon's many Faces Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

1. The moon circles Earth every _____.
   - Ⓐ 30 minutes
   - Ⓑ 24 hours
   - Ⓒ 30 days
   - Ⓓ 365 days

2. The phases of the moon are caused by different _____.
   - Ⓐ amounts of sunlight on the moon
   - Ⓑ shadows from the sky
   - Ⓒ positions of the planets
   - Ⓓ paths of the moon's orbit

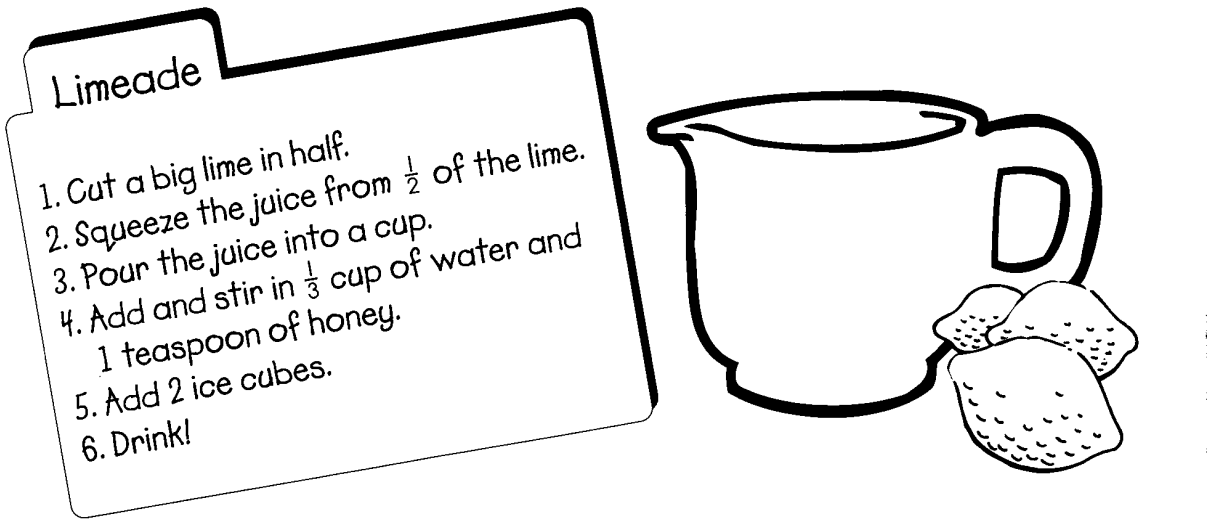
3. What moon phase do we see after a new moon?
   - Ⓐ quarter moon
   - Ⓑ full moon
   - Ⓒ crescent moon
   - Ⓓ another new moon

4. Why are we able to see the moon in the night sky?
   - Ⓐ It reflects Earth's light.
   - Ⓑ It reflects the sun's light.
   - Ⓒ It reflects the shadows.
   - Ⓓ It produces its own light.

5. During a full moon, why does the moon look like a circle?
   - Ⓐ The sunlight is directly on the moon.
   - Ⓑ The Earth blocks the sunlight.
   - Ⓒ The moon has circled Earth one time.
   - Ⓓ The moon has made shadows over Earth.

Making Limeade

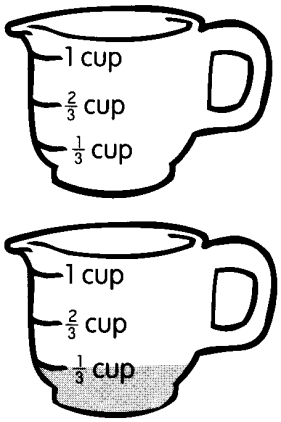
When we cook, we use fractions. Look at the steps for making limeade. Find all the fractions.



$\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ are fractions. What do they mean? $\frac{1}{2}$ (one-half) means one of two equal parts. The card says to squeeze $\frac{1}{2}$ of a lime. You should cut the lime into two equal parts. Then squeeze the juice from one part.

$\frac{1}{3}$ (one-third) means one of three equal parts. The recipe card says to add $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of water. You should fill the cup with water to the $\frac{1}{3}$ line.

Try making limeade at home. You could use the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the lime to make a glass for a friend.



Making Limeade Questions

Write the question numbers in your workbook with the correct letter (answer) next to it, e.g. 1B

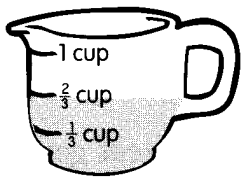
1. The recipe says to use _____.
   - Ⓐ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water
   - Ⓑ $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of water
   - Ⓒ $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of water
   - Ⓓ $\frac{1}{3}$ teaspoon of water

2. What does $\frac{1}{2}$ mean?
   - Ⓐ 1 part
   - Ⓑ 2 equal parts
   - Ⓒ 1 of 2 equal parts
   - Ⓓ 12 equal parts

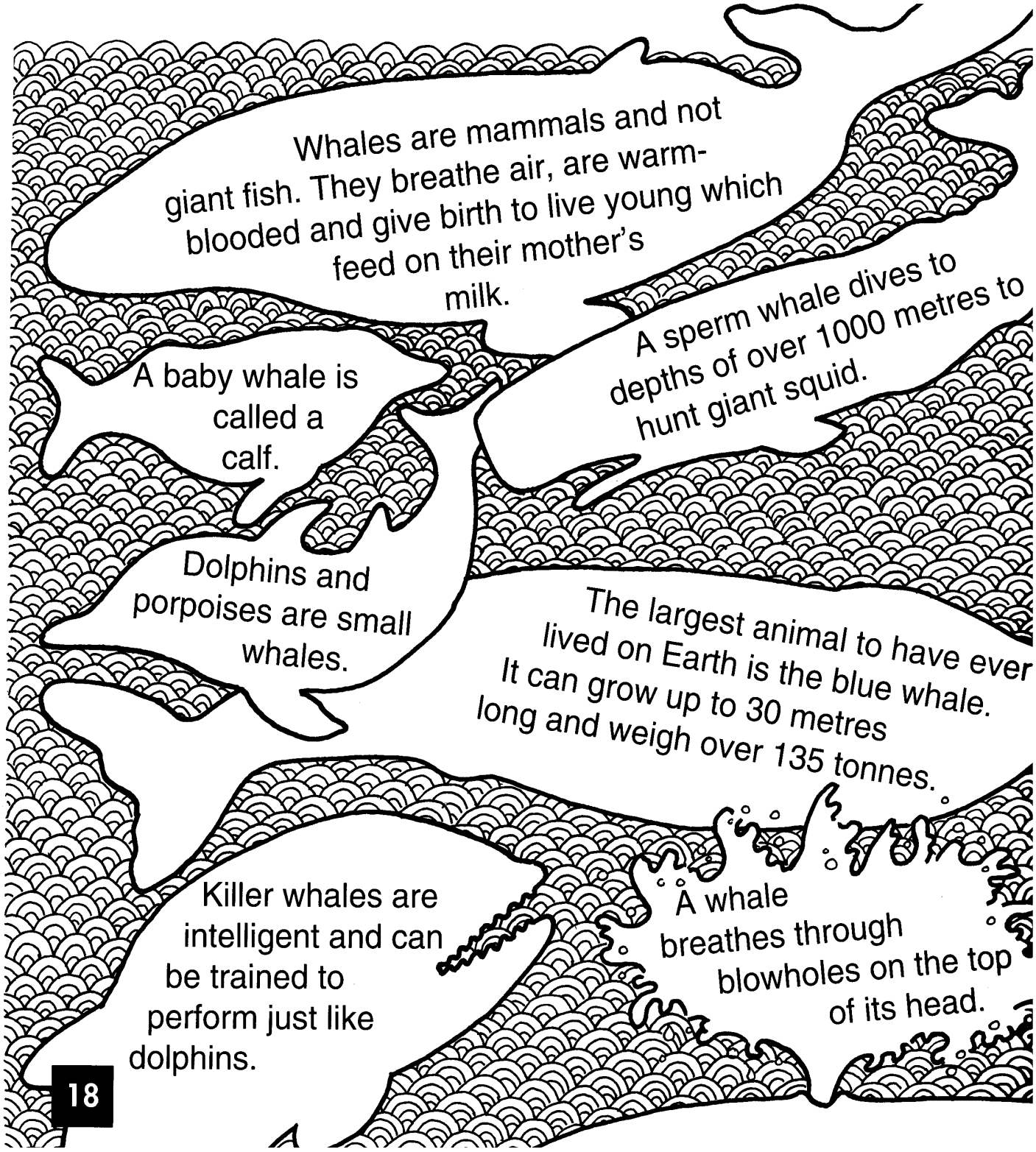
3. Another word for **equal** is _____.
   - Ⓐ same
   - Ⓑ near
   - Ⓒ unlike
   - Ⓓ add

4. What does $\frac{1}{3}$ mean?
   - Ⓐ 1 part
   - Ⓑ 3 equal parts
   - Ⓒ 1 of 3 equal parts
   - Ⓓ 13 equal parts

5. This cup is filled with _____.
   - Ⓐ 1 cup of water
   - Ⓑ 2 cups of water
   - Ⓒ $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of water
   - Ⓓ $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of water



Whales


Whales are mammals and not giant fish. They breathe air, are warm-blooded and give birth to live young which feed on their mother's milk.
A sperm whale dives to depths of over 1000 metres to hunt giant squid.
A baby whale is called a calf.
Dolphins and porpoises are small whales.
The largest animal to have ever lived on Earth is the blue whale. It can grow up to 30 metres long and weigh over 135 tonnes.
Killer whales are intelligent and can be trained to perform just like dolphins.
A whale breathes through blowholes on the top of its head.
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Whales

Write True or False

1 A baby whale is called a pup. _____

2 A blue whale is larger than the biggest dinosaur.
_____

3 Whales are mammals, just like cows and elephants.
_____

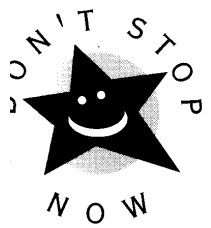
4 Dolphins and porpoises are small fish. _____

5 Killer whales eat giant squid. _____

6 A whale breathes through its mouth. _____

7 Sperm whales are champion divers! They can dive deeper than a kilometre. _____

8 Killer whales can be taught to perform tricks because they are very clever. _____



Man hunted some species of whales (such as the humpback) almost to extinction. Design a badge encouraging people to "Save the Whale".

The Dove and the Ant

Once a thirsty ant crawled to a river bank to have a drink. She fell in and was carried along by the stream. A dove, who was flying overhead, felt sorry for her and dropped a small branch into the water. The ant was able to climb onto the branch and float to shore. A while later, the ant spotted a man ready to shoot the dove. The ant stung the man in the foot so that he missed his aim. The dove's life was saved.

An Aesop Fable

The Dove and the Ant

Write the sentence with the correct ending.

1 The ant went to the river because she
- was hungry
- was thirsty.
- wanted to go for a swim.

2 The ant was seen in the water by a
- crocodile.
- man.
- dove.

3 The ant got out of the river by
- floating on a branch.
- swimming.
- using a life-jacket.

4 A man tried to shoot
- the dove.
- the ant.
- the branch.

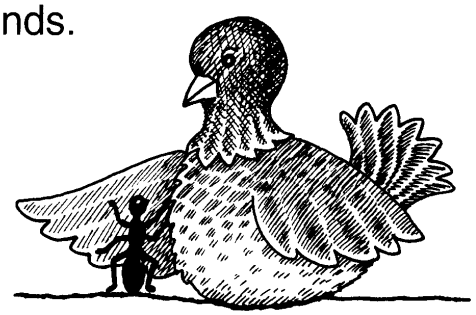
5 The man didn't shoot the dove because
- he was a poor shot.
- his gun didn't work.
- he was bitten on the foot.

6 What do you think the lesson in the story is?

a Little friends may be great friends.

or

b Ants can't swim.



Write a story about a little mouse helping a mighty elephant.

Fire Safety

What to do in a housefire:

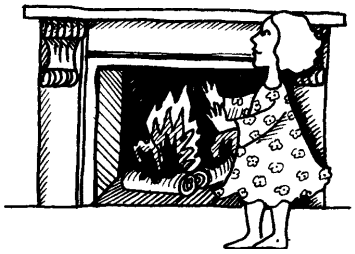
Crawl along the floor where there is less smoke and heat. If a closed door is cool, open it and make your way outside. Close doors behind you. If the door is hot, do not open. Climb through the window to make your escape.

What to do if your clothes catch on fire:

STOP Do not run.
DROP onto the floor with your arms crossed in front of you.
ROLL Keep rolling over until the flames are out.

Remember:

1. Don't play with matches.
2. Your clothes can catch fire so don't stand too close to a heater or fire.



Fire Safety

1 Why should you crawl along the floor in a housefire? _____

_____

2 What do you do if a closed door feels hot? _____

_____

3 If your clothes catch on fire, which three words should you remember? _____ _____ _____

4 If your clothes are on fire, why should you roll on the floor?

_____

5 Why shouldn't you stand too close to fires or heaters? _____

_____

6 Where do you think people should store matches? _____

_____

_____

If you needed to call the fire-brigade you will need to give your address. Write your address on these lines.

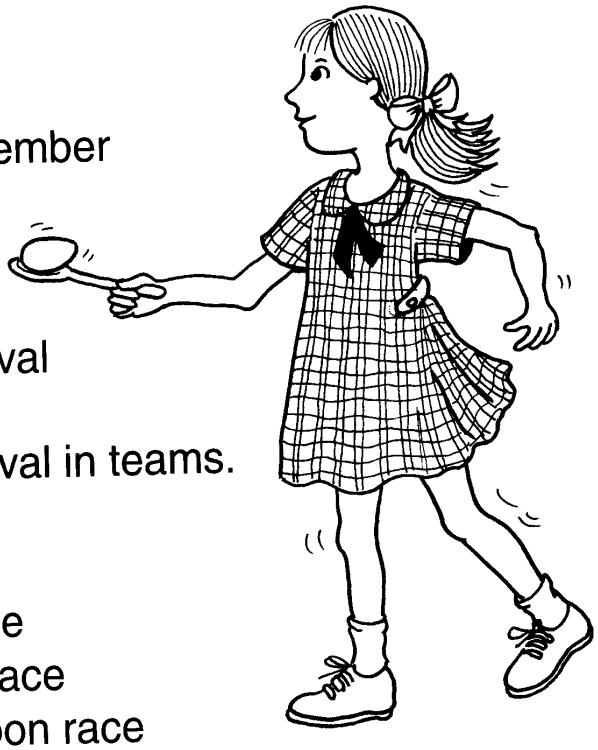
_____

_____

_____

Make a fire safety poster.

School Sports Day



Date: Friday 16th September

Time: 10:00 to 12:00

Place: On the school oval

10:00 March around oval in teams.

10:30 Games begin.

1. forwards race
2. backwards race
3. egg and spoon race
4. 3-legged race
5. sack race

11:15 MORNING TEA

11:30 Team events

1. Tunnel ball
2. Bean-bag relay
3. Balloon relay

12:00 SAUSAGE SIZZLE

School Sports Day

1 On which day and date will the sports day be held?

2 How many hours will it go for?

3 What will the children do before the games begin?

4 What time do the games begin?

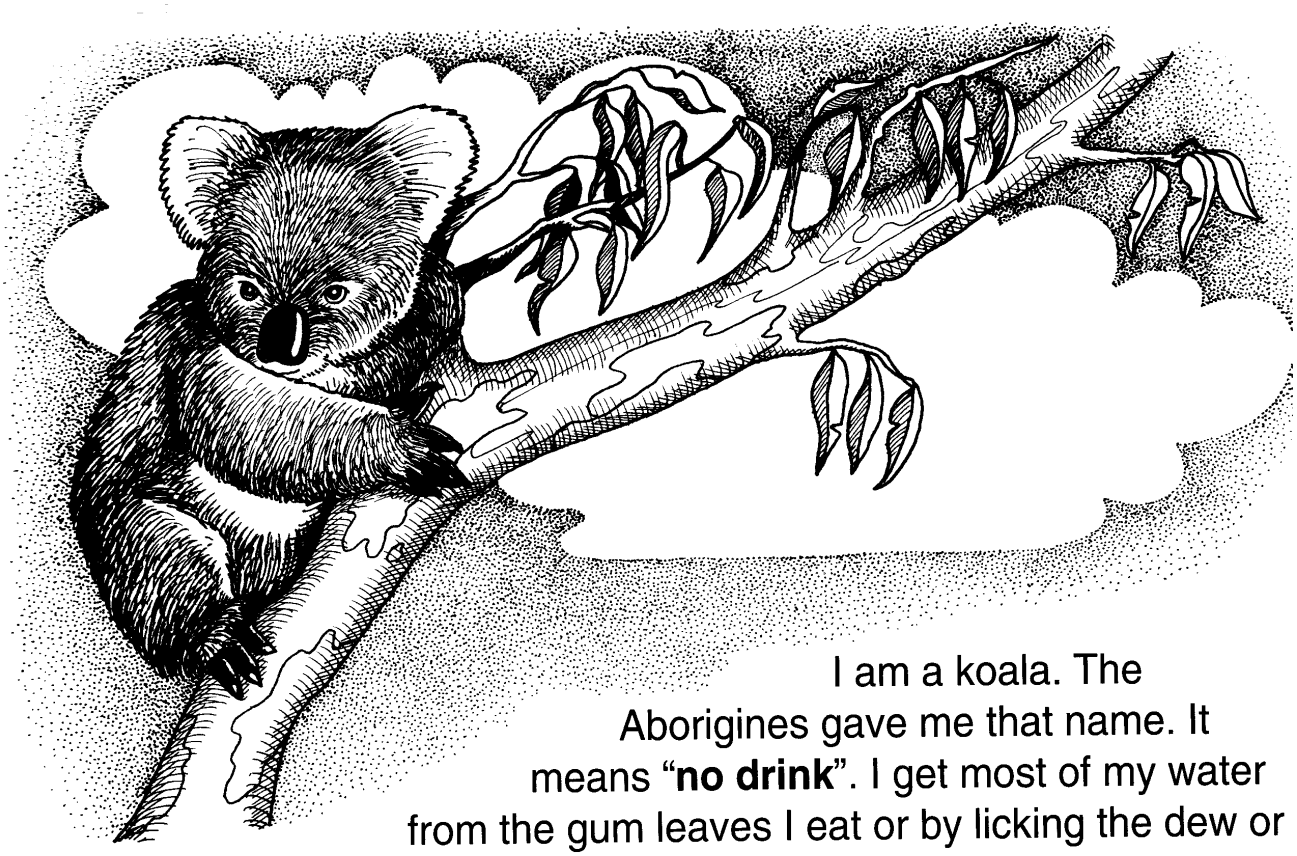
5 How many team events are there?

6 What is the second event?

7 What is the last sports event of the day?

8 What will the children have for lunch?

The Koala



I am a koala. The Aborigines gave me that name. It means "**no drink**". I get most of my water from the gum leaves I eat or by licking the dew or raindrops off leaves. Very rarely will you see me drink from a river or pond. It's too dangerous for me to be on the ground.

I am a fussy eater. I love to eat young, tender gum leaves. Each day I eat about one kilogram of leaves.

Did you know I can spend up to 19 hours a day sleeping in the fork of a tree, only waking at dusk to feed?

People say I look cute and cuddly and call me Australia's "teddy bear". They're wrong! I am not a bear but a marsupial. Marsupials are mammals whose young are carried in their mother's pouch.

The Koala

Write the missing words.

1 The _____ is sometimes called Australia's "teddy bear".

2 During the day, koalas often _____ in the fork of a gum tree.

3 Koalas prefer to eat the young _____ of only a few kinds of gum _____.

4 An adult koala eats about a _____ of leaves daily.

5 "Koala" is an _____ word meaning "no drink".

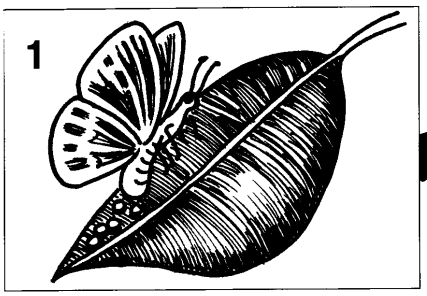
6 A koala gets most of the _____ it needs from the leaves it eats.

7 The koala is a _____, a mammal that carries its young in a _____.

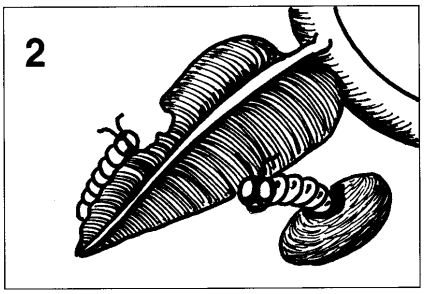
List 2 reasons why it would be dangerous for a koala to be on the ground.

1 _____

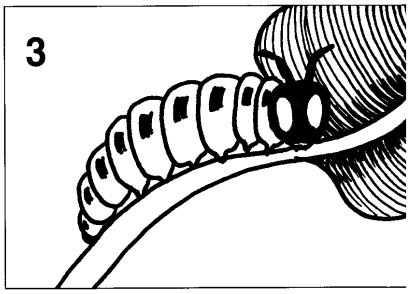
The Life Cycle of a Butterfly



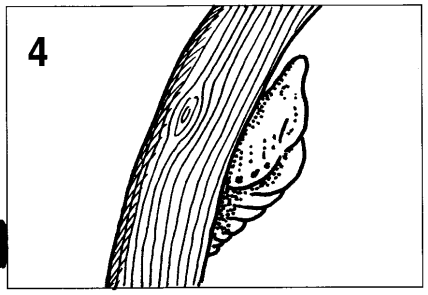
A female butterfly lays her eggs on a leaf.



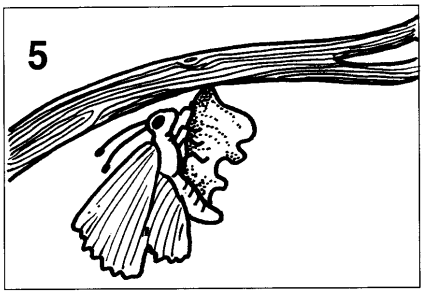
A tiny caterpillar hatches and eats the egg shell. It then starts to feed on the food plant.



When the caterpillar is fully grown it changes into a chrysalis.



Inside the chrysalis the caterpillar becomes a butterfly.



The new butterfly breaks out of the chrysalis. Its wings are crumpled but as blood flows through them, the wings expand to their full size.

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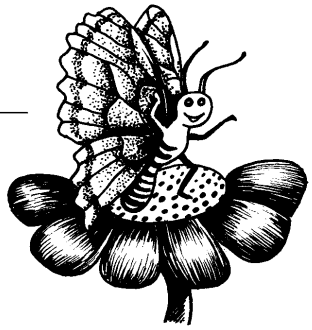
The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Write the answers. When finished, the letters in the boxes going down the page will make a mystery word.



1 It flows into a butterfly's wings. ☐ _ _ _ _

2 The opposite of empty. _ ☐ _ _

3 What comes out of the chrysalis? _ _ ☐ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 It hatches from a butterfly's egg. _ _ ☐ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 A female butterfly lays them. ☐ _ _ _

6 An adult butterfly develops in here. _ _ ☐ _ _ _ _ _ _

7 The caterpillar eats the leaves of the _____ plant. ☐ _ _ _

8 The eggs are laid on this part of the plant. ☐ _ _ _

9 How butterflies move. _ _ ☐

What is the mystery word? _____

Organise a word-making competition. How many words can you make from the word "butterfly"? Who made the most? Do the same with the word "caterpillar".