

Read, Reflect, Respond 1



Topics Include:

Make Connections, Activate Prior Knowledge,
Ask Questions, Make Inferences, Identify the Main Idea,
Recall Details, Draw Conclusions, Synthesize

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Read: *Do you know these interesting facts about sharks?*

Sharks Never Sleep and Other Shark Facts

Sharks are ancient creatures. They were around some 400 million years ago! Even before dinosaurs roamed the earth, sharks hunted the seas.

Sharks are survival machines. They're well-designed to stay alive. They have the strongest jaws on the planet. Unlike other animals, both their upper and lower jaws move. If a shark loses a tooth, it's no problem. Why? Another tooth spins forward from a back-up row. In its lifetime, one shark may grow and use more than 20,000 teeth! Sharks can feed on nearly any creature in the sea. The only animals that see sharks as food are other sharks, whales, and human beings.

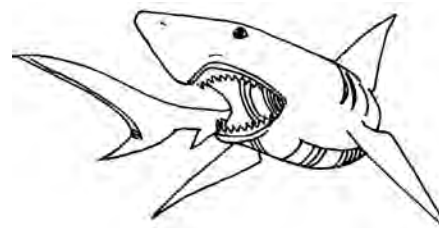
No bones about it! Instead of bones, a shark's body has cartilage—hard, bendable stuff like the material in human ears. This makes the shark flexible. Tough shark “skin” has hard, razor-sharp scales.

Seven super senses! Sharks have the same five senses humans do: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. But there are differences. Two-thirds of a shark's brain is at work smelling things. It can smell one drop of blood in the sea. Humans use their noses for smelling and breathing, but a shark's nose is only for smell. Sharks see things in color. They can make out a light 10 times dimmer than any light we can see.

And sharks have two bonus senses. A line of sensors from head to tail picks up vibrations. They can sense an injured fish quivering in the distance. Another sense lets sharks “feel” electricity. A shark can sense electric pulses from a beating heart.

Where's mama? Unlike most animals, sharks don't take care of their babies. Newborn pups fend for themselves. In some species, the strongest pup eats its brothers and sisters. This improves its own chances of survival.

No need for a wake-up call! Some types of sharks must swim constantly in order to breathe. Sharks go from periods of strong activity to times of calmer rest. But it is true that sharks are ever-watchful. They never sleep.



Reflect: *Think about sharks.*

1. Circle the four adjectives that describe sharks.

flexible	watchful	motherly	sleepy	ancient
vegetarian	alert	soft	furry	

2. Sometimes the word “shark” is used to describe a person. What traits might such a person have?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Identify a main idea.

1. Which is a main idea of this reading?
 - a. Sharks are well-equipped to survive.
 - b. Sharks have lots of teeth.
 - c. Sharks pups can be mean.
2. Write one *detail* from the reading that supports the *main idea* you selected.

Recall details.

3. Sharks have been around
 - a. since the early 1900s.
 - b. longer than dinosaurs.
 - c. less time than human beings.
4. Besides the usual five senses, a shark can also sense
 - a. weather and seasonal changes.
 - b. outcomes of future events.
 - c. vibrations and electricity.
5. When it comes to caring for their young, sharks
 - a. are over-protective.
 - b. ignore their offspring.
 - c. teach their offspring hunting skills.
6. A baby shark is called a
 - a. tadpole.
 - b. cub.
 - c. pup.
7. Sharks never
 - a. give birth.
 - b. eat.
 - c. sleep.

Match synonyms.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 8. ____ flexible | a. stay alive |
| 9. ____ vibrations | b. alert |
| 10. ____ survive | c. bendable |
| 11. ____ watchful | d. quiverings |

Make comparisons.

12. List three ways a shark body is different from a human body.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Look it up in a reference source.

13. Name three species of shark.

- _____
- _____
- _____

14. Are human swimmers usually in great danger from sharks? (Give details to explain and support your answer.)

Read: *Learn about America's first black troops.*

Heroes from History: The Buffalo Soldier

In 1888, some unusual American soldiers galloped their horses across the Great Plains. All of these men had dark hair and skin. They were known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

Earlier that century, many African-Americans had fought for the North in the Civil War. They'd helped to end slavery. After the war, in July of 1866, the army formed the 9th and 10th Cavalries. Each unit was made up entirely of African-American soldiers. White officers commanded these troops.

On the plains and in the southwest, Native Americans watched these soldiers carefully. They admired their courage in the face of danger. Like the buffalo that the Native Americans held sacred, these soldiers were dark, fierce, strong, and full of energy. That's why the Native Americans called these men "Buffalo Soldiers," a term of respect.

Many white troops and civilians looked down on the Buffalo Soldiers. But the all-black units performed well, even in the face of prejudice. The motto of the 9th Cavalry was "We can! We will!" The Buffalo Soldiers scouted dangerous regions. They battled hostile Native Americans and made peace with many tribes. They captured outlaws and mapped uncharted lands. They delivered mail, built telegraph lines, and protected forts, railroads, and wagon trains.

Several Buffalo Soldiers received Medals of Honor. The 9th and 10th Cavalries had fewer deserters than other army units. These brave men led the way for settlers and helped shape the West.

The story of the Buffalo Soldiers didn't end in the Wild West, however. All-black units served the U.S. armed forces into the 20th century. But not until 1992 were these troops honored officially. Since then, new monuments and movies have paid tribute to these heroes from America's history.



Reflect: *Think about the Buffalo Soldiers and their role on the western frontier.*

1. Think about life on the American frontier. Then name two difficult or dangerous things about that life.

2. What, in your opinion, makes a person a hero? _____

3. What is the Medal of Honor? (Use a reference source.) Why might a soldier be awarded one?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Recall details.

1. How were the men of the 9th and 10th Cavalry different from soldiers of other army units?

2. What nickname did the Native Americans give the 9th and 10th Cavalry?

3. Why did the Native Americans give them that nickname?

4. What were three jobs done by the 9th and 10th Cavalry?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
5. What was the motto of the 9th Cavalry?

Recognize the author's purpose.

6. Why do you think the author wrote this article?
 - a. to give credit to some of history's lesser-known heroes
 - b. to create myths about life in the Old West
 - c. to explain why the South lost the Civil War

Build your vocabulary.

7. *Cavalry* soldiers (rode horseback / traveled on foot).
8. The Native Americans thought the buffalo were *sacred* or (scarce / holy).
9. The Native Americans *respected* or (admired / disliked) the Buffalo Soldiers.
10. The Buffalo Soldiers fought against *hostile* or (friendly / unfriendly) Native Americans.
11. Many white soldiers (admired / looked down on) the black soldiers because of *prejudice*.
12. Because very few black soldiers (ran away from their duties / were paid for their work), the 9th and 10th Cavalries had few *deserters*.

Look it up in a reference source.

13. Cathay Williams was the only female to serve as a Buffalo Soldier. Do some research about her. Then write a few sentences telling her story.

Read: Learn more about your sense of smell—one of the five human senses.

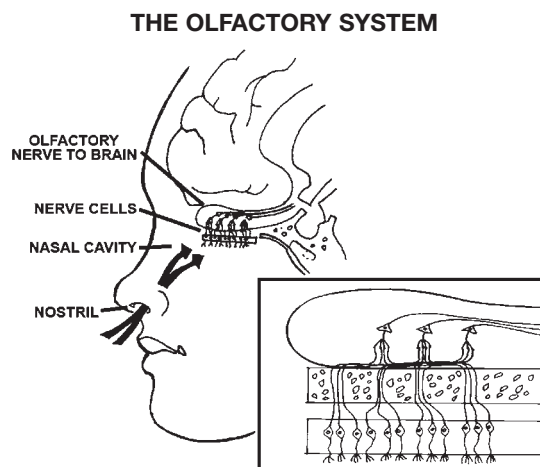
What's That Smell?

You open the refrigerator door. *Phew!* What's that awful odor? Your sense of smell is warning you that food has spoiled!

The human sense of smell is very sensitive. It is not, however, as highly developed in humans as in most animals. Many animals use their sense of smell as their first line of protection. Their nose tells them when an enemy is near. And it leads them to food.

Smells come to us as very tiny particles in the air called *molecules*. When you breathe, the molecules go into your nose. Take a moment. Sniff the air. Breathe in those molecules! What odors do you smell?

The human nose has two holes called *nostrils*. Inside each nostril are nerve cells. They pick up the odor first. Then they pass it to the *olfactory* nerve, which leads to the brain. At that moment we smell the smell!



THREE FACTS ABOUT THE SENSE OF SMELL

- The olfactory lobes take up more of an animal's brain than a human's.
- A specific odor may seem strong when we first sense it. After about three minutes, though, we usually stop smelling it.
- Many "tastes" are really blends of smells and tastes. Is it an onion or an apple? If you hold your nose after taking a bite, it's hard to tell.

Reflect: Think about different smells.

1. Name an aroma, such as that of strawberries, that reminds you of something pleasant.

2. Name an odor that reminds you of something unpleasant. _____
3. Certain smells can warn of danger. List three smells that may mean that danger is near.
• _____ • _____ • _____
4. Sniff the air. List some of the odors you smell. _____

5. After a few minutes, you usually stop noticing an odor. How might that be a good thing? How might that be bad?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Build your vocabulary.

1. The air contains
n _____ that
carry odor.
2. You breathe odors in through the
n _____ in your nose.
3. The a _____ nerve carries
the smell to the b _____.

Think about parts and wholes.

4. Many parts of your body work together
to make your sense of smell work.
List three main parts of your whole
“smelling system.”

Recall details.

5. Human beings have a (stronger /
weaker) sense of smell than most
animals.
6. We normally stop smelling a specific
odor after experiencing it for several
(minutes / hours).

7. Strong odors can affect what we
(taste / see).

8. Your food might have a different
taste if you (closed your eyes / plugged
your nose).

Put details in order.

9. The following sentences describe
how your sense of smell works. Number
them in the order in which they
happen.

- ____ a. The odor is carried
to your brain.
- ____ b. You breathe in odor
molecules.
- ____ c. Odor molecules fill
the air.
- ____ d. Nerve cells sense
the odor.

Look it up in a reference source.

10. Where is an insect’s sense organ
for smell?

11. *Anosmia* is an olfactory disorder.
What is the primary symptom of this
disorder?

Read: *Learn about a man who loved and protected our natural resources.*

John Muir (1838–1914): Father of America's National Parks

John Muir was a student of nature. As a boy he had little schooling, yet he later became an author. He wrote that a day in the mountains was “. . . better than a cartload of books.”

At age 11, John came to the United States from Scotland. His family settled on a Midwestern farm. Hard work filled his days, but John made time to read and explore. And he also found time to invent. Among other things, he invented an automatic horse feeder.

As a young man, he studied at the University of Wisconsin. After college, Muir traveled. Along the way, a factory job ended in an accident that nearly blinded him. When his eyesight returned, he vowed to treasure nature's brightness. That's when Muir set off on a 1,000-mile walk from Indiana to Florida. After that he went on to Cuba and Panama. Finally, he settled in California. Muir spent many happy years living in the mountains there. He wrote that he often stood atop a waterfall and sang out with joy.



**CALIFORNIA HONORS
JOHN MUIR
WITH ITS 2005
STATE QUARTER
DESIGN.**

John Muir made it his full-time job to write and speak about the glories of nature. His works helped convince U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt to protect the California wilderness. The president even joined Muir on a camping trip. That inspired him to set aside land as Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park.

John Muir became the first president of the Sierra Club. To this day, the club's mission is to protect natural beauty for everyone to enjoy.

California has showed its gratitude to Muir many times. There are more California sites named after John Muir than after any other person!

Muir sent his messages from the peaks of the Sierra Nevada range, the shade of Sequoia trees, beneath the stars, and beside riverbeds. He gave all Americans some good advice: “Keep close to Nature's heart . . . Break clear away, once in awhile. Climb a mountain or spend a week in a forestland. Wash your spirit clean!”

Reflect: *Think about John Muir and the beauty of nature.*

1. Circle the places that are “natural” regions.

a mountain meadow

a new shopping mall

a dry desert

a deep valley

Kennedy Airport

a sparkling waterfall

a college campus

a dark forest

the Grand Canyon

the Florida Everglades

a city library

Central Park

2. Is there a special place of natural beauty that you enjoy? Tell about it.

3. Why do you think John Muir has been called the “Father of America’s National Parks”?

4. Think about the quote at the end of the passage. Rewrite the quotation in your own words.

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Build your vocabulary.

1. Combine a word from Box A with a word from Box B to make a *compound word* from the reading. Then use that word to complete each sentence.

BOX A

water	eye
river	forest

BOX B

bed	land
fall	sight

- a. A stream or river that spills over the top of a cliff and pours to the ground is a _____.
- b. A _____ is the area between the banks of a waterway covered or once covered by water.
- c. A large wooded area can be called a _____.
- d. Another word for *vision* is _____.

Recall details.

2. John Muir came to America from
a. Italy. b. Ireland c. Scotland.
3. When he was young, Muir loved to
a. paint nature pictures.
b. invent unusual things.
c. take care of animals.
4. Muir wrote articles about
a. protecting nature.
b. scientific discoveries.
c. life in the Midwest.

Look it up in a reference source.

5. Write three facts about the Sierra Club.

- _____
- _____
- _____

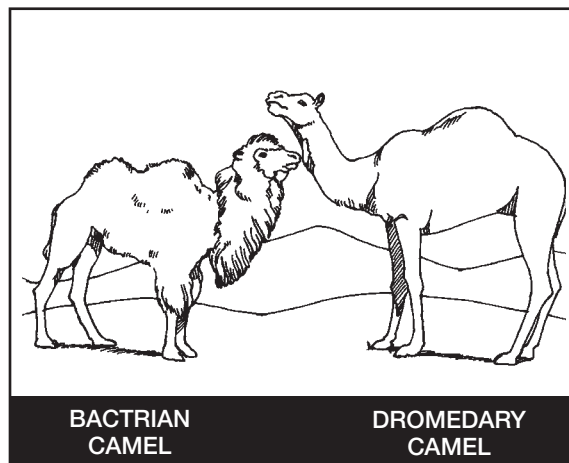
Read: *Why are camels sometimes called “ships of the desert”?*

Title: _____

Dry winds blow sand as a train of camels trudges across the vast desert. The desert people depend on camels. These remarkable beasts serve as pack animals on long, hot journeys. Desert travelers pack their gear against the hump on a camel's back. This hump is the camel's most distinct feature. Camels are, in fact, the *only* animals with humps. People often think the hump is filled with water. But it is not a storage depot for liquid. Actually, it's a mound of fat.

The fat mound helps the camel survive on desert crossings. A camel's hump can weigh up to 80 pounds. When food or water becomes scarce, the camel's body draws on the reserves of fat in its hump. This allows the camel to survive for weeks without eating or drinking.

As the camel's body uses the fat, the hump shrinks. Eventually, it may get so empty and small that it flops onto the camel's side! The size of the hump is a sign of the camel's health. A camel-rancher explained, “It's time to worry when a hump starts to tip. That means the animal needs food!” Once a camel gets food and water, its hump returns to normal. And as for food, a camel will eat just about anything! A very hungry camel will eat tents, ropes, or even saddle straps! Grasses and grains are more healthful, of course.



The most commonly seen camels have one hump. These are the desert-dwellers of Africa and Arabia. Two-humped camels are found mainly in the deserts of Asia. They are shorter and heavier than one-humped camels. Their long, thick hair helps them withstand the region's great heat and extreme cold.

Reflect: *Think about camels.*

1. Circle the title that would best fit this article. Then write the title above the reading.

The Dry Desert Lands *Hey, Mr. Camel! What's in That Hump?* *The Daily Life of a Camel*

2. Explain why you chose that title. _____

3. Write the names of three other “pack animals.”

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. Describe a place where camels live. Circle three descriptive adjectives.

dry	sandy	wooded
hot	damp	seaside

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Build your vocabulary.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. A camel's hump is its most <i>distinct</i> feature. The word <i>distinct</i> means
a. noticeable b. ugly c. useful</p> <p>2. The camel's hump is a <i>depot</i>.
A <i>depot</i> is a kind of
a. storehouse. b. tumor. c. sore spot.</p> <p>3. A camel's hump helps it <i>survive</i>.
To <i>survive</i> is to
a. run. b. see well. c. stay alive.</p> <p>4. The camel is a desert <i>dweller</i>.
The word <i>dweller</i> means
a. traveler. b. animal. c. resident.</p> <p>5. The deserts of Asia have <i>extreme</i> heat and cold. <i>Extreme</i> means
a. slight. b. very great. c. moist.</p> | <p>8. A very large hump may weigh
(eight / eighty) pounds.</p> <p>9. A camel with a very small,
floppy hump is probably
(hungry / young).</p> <p>10. Camels can go for weeks without
(food / sleep).</p> <p>11. Camels are (picky / greedy) eaters.</p> <p>12. The most commonly seen camels
have (one hump / two humps).</p> |
|--|---|

Look it up in a reference source.

13. How does a camel keep desert sand out of its nose?

Identify the main idea.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>6. This reading is mainly about
a. different types of camels.
b. the camel's hump.
c. the different places that camels live.</p> | <p>14. What protects a camel's eyes from the blowing sand?</p> |
|---|--|

Recall details.

7. As the camel uses up stored fat, its hump (grows / shrinks).

Read: *How is the North Pole different from the South Pole?*

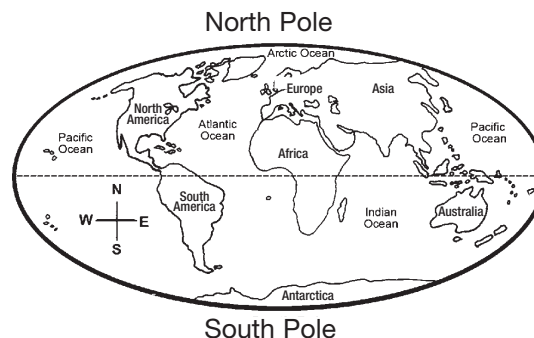
The Ends of the Earth: The North and South Poles

Travel as far north as possible, and you will reach the North Pole. Nothing is north of the North Pole. Travel as far south as possible, and you'll reach the South Pole. Nothing is south of the South Pole. Found on opposite ends of the world, the poles have some very different features.

The Arctic Ocean covers the region that includes the North Pole. There is no land beneath the thick polar ice cap. Unlike the North Pole, the South Pole is solid land. In fact, it is part of the continent of Antarctica.

Seasons come at opposite times at the poles. Average July temperatures at the North Pole rise to 32°F. In February, temperatures plunge to -31°F. But the South Pole gets much colder! The average annual temperature there is -52°F. Winter lows have hit -117°F. Why is the North Pole warmer than the South Pole? The North Pole sits over water that never freezes solid. Ocean currents warm the region from below the surface. At both poles, winter brings six months of nighttime. The dark months have their own special beauty. Stars shine 24 hours a day.

Penguins, seals, and sea birds live along Antarctica's coasts. But there's no animal life at the South Pole itself. Because this pole is inland and high, the climate is simply too cold! Polar bears, walruses, and whales inhabit the Arctic region. But there are no penguins! Penguins are found only in the southern half of the world.



Reflect: *Think about the North and South Poles.*

1. Circle the four adjectives that describe both the North and South Poles.

hot frozen tropical fertile

cold empty crowded barren

2. Which pole is closer to Canada?

3. Which pole is closer to Australia?

4. What is the coldest place you've ever visited? How cold was it? How was daily life different in the cold?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Recall details.

1. The North Pole is really
(a land mass / an ice cap).
2. Because it is so cold at the
South Pole, there is no
(summer / animal life).
3. Both poles are (dark / cold)
six months a year.

Make comparisons.

4. List two ways the North Pole and
South Pole are alike.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
5. List two ways the North Pole and
South Pole are different.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Draw conclusions.

6. Explain why Arctic polar bears
don't eat penguins.

Build your vocabulary.

7. The South Pole is on the *continent*
of Antarctica. A *continent* is
 - a. a large country or nation.
 - b. a network of waterways
and land masses.
 - c. one of the seven main, large
land areas on the earth.
8. Ocean *currents* warm the
North Pole. A *current* is
 - a. a flow of water or air in
a certain direction.
 - b. a fish, sea lion, or walrus.
 - c. an iceberg.
9. Both poles have a cold *climate*.
Climate is the
 - a. type of animal life found
in a place.
 - b. usual weather conditions
in a place.
 - c. storage building on a site.
10. Penguins *inhabit* Antarctica.
To *inhabit* a place is to
 - a. live there.
 - b. die there.
 - c. be born there.

Look it up in a dictionary.

11. The English word *pole* comes from
what language? _____

How was the word spelled in
that language? _____

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND

COMPREHENSION USING INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Read, Reflect, Respond 1

Read, Reflect, Respond 2