

Student Fluency Assessments

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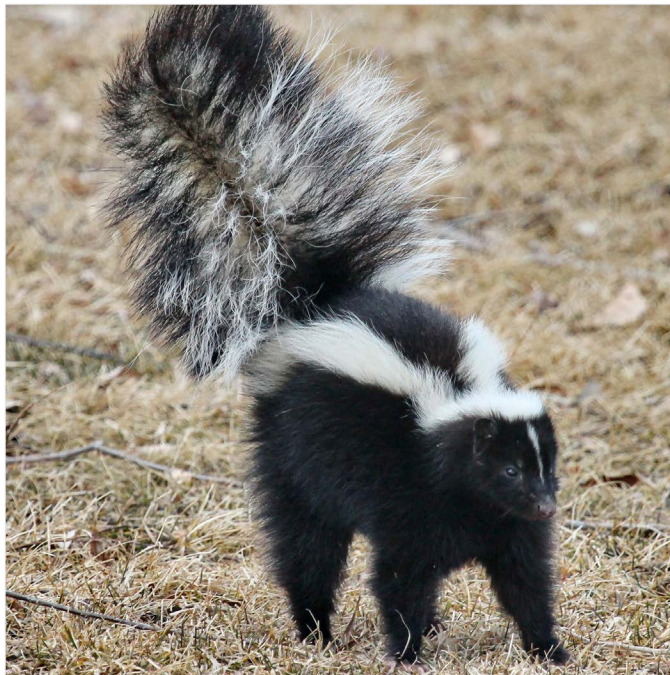
Vocabulary Assessments
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Staying Safe

All animals have ways to keep themselves safe. Skunks keep themselves safe by giving off a bad smell. The smell tells people and other animals to go away.

Some skunks hiss before they give off this smell. Then, if the person or animal is still there, skunks put up their tail and spray. The smell from this spray can make animals sick. If the spray gets into animals' eyes, they may not be able to see. While the animal gets sick or can't see, the skunk gets away.



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Review

1. This reading is MAINLY about _____

- A. why skunks spray other animals.
- B. how animals stay safe from skunks.
- C. how skunks stay safe.

2. Tell how skunks stay safe.

Flying Over the Ocean

Flying fish live near the top of the ocean. They have long side fins that look like bird wings. These long side fins don't really let flying fish fly like birds. Instead, the fins let flying fish get away from animals that want to eat them.

When animals swim after them, flying fish use their long side fins to leap out of the ocean. These fins also help flying fish move through the air. Other animals can't reach flying fish as they move above the ocean.



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Review

1. How do flying fish fly?

- A. with bird wings
- B. with long side fins
- C. by jumping on other animals

2. How do flying fish stay safe from other animals?

Hiding Out

Many animals blend in with things around them. They do this to keep themselves safe.

Tree frogs are animals that live in trees and grasses around water. Tree frogs blend in with things around them. Green tree frogs are the same green color as the leaves of the trees in which they live. Gray tree frogs live on trees and in tree stumps that are gray and brown. Gray tree frogs are the same gray and brown colors as the trees. By blending in, tree frogs can hide from snakes that eat tree frogs. They can keep themselves safe.



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Review

1. How do tree frogs blend in with things around them?

- A. They live in the water.
- B. They stay away from snakes.
- C. They are the same color as the places they live.
- D. They live in places where no other animals live.

2. Why is it helpful for animals to blend in with things around them?

Look-Alikes

Some animals look like other animals. Looking like another animal can keep an animal safe. Coral snakes have bodies with bright red and black bands. King snakes also have bright bands on their bodies. Coral snakes and king snakes look alike, but they are different. Animals get sick if a coral snake bites them. They don't get sick if a king snake bites them.

Animals stay away from snakes with red and black bands. It does not matter if they are king snakes or coral snakes. Animals don't want to get sick. King snakes stay safe by looking like coral snakes.



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Animals stay away from snakes with red and black⁷⁵ bands. It does not matter if they are king snakes or coral snakes. Animals don't want to get sick. King snakes stay safe by looking like coral snakes.¹⁰³

Review

1. King snakes stay safe by _____

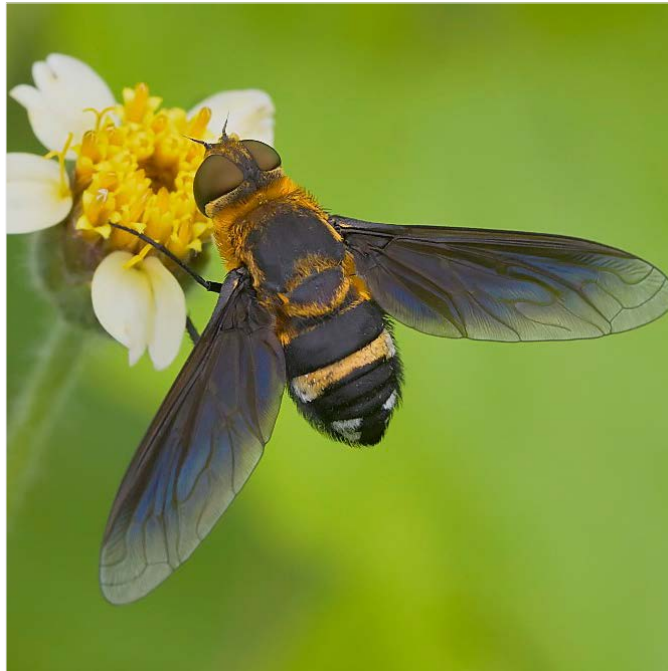
- A. biting other snakes.
- B. finding places to hide from other snakes.
- C. having the same colors as coral snakes.
- D. looking like the trees they live on.

2. Why do animals stay away from snakes with red and black bands?

Bee Flies

Bee flies are insects that act and look just like bees. Bees go from flower to flower, drinking nectar. Bee flies also go from flower to flower, drinking nectar. Bees have hairy bodies. Bee flies have the same kind of hairy bodies.

You have to look closely to see how bees and bee flies are different. Bees have two pairs of wings. Bee flies have only one pair of wings. Bee flies do not sting like bees. Also, bee flies do not make honey. Only bees make honey. When you see an insect that you think is a bee, look again. You may be seeing a bee fly.



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Review

1. How are bee flies and bees alike?
 - A. Bee flies and bees have two pairs of wings.
 - B. Bee flies and bees act and look the same.
 - C. Bee flies and bees make honey.
 - D. Bee flies and bees like to be near people.

2. How are bee flies and bees different?

Sticks That Walk

Many animals look and act like things around them. Walking sticks are insects that look like sticks. Walking sticks are long and thin like the branches of the trees on which they live. Walking sticks change color from green to brown as they get older. Their colors make it easy for them to hide in the trees.

Walking sticks stay still during the day. They move at night when it is hard for their enemies to see them. At night, walking sticks move slowly. Their enemies don't see an insect. They see something that looks like a branch blowing in the wind. Their enemies don't harm them.



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Review

1. What is the walking stick described in this reading?
 - A. a stick that people use to walk
 - B. an insect that bites people
 - C. a stick that looks like an insect
 - D. an insect that looks like a stick
2. How do walking sticks hide from their enemies?

Stripes That Blend In

Many animals stay safe from enemies by blending into the place in which they live. Zebras have a strange way of blending in. People can easily see the black and white stripes of zebras. However, the lions that are the main enemy of zebras are colorblind. To colorblind lions, the stripes of zebras blend in with the tall grass in which zebras live.

Stripes can help individual zebras hide from lions. However, zebras usually move in large groups that even colorblind lions can't miss. In large groups, an individual zebra's stripes run together with the stripes of the zebras around it. Lions see a mass of moving stripes, making it hard to see an individual zebra.



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Review

1. Lions can't see zebras in tall grass because ___
 - A. lions do not hunt animals with black and white stripes.
 - B. lions are colorblind, so they blend into the place in which they live.
 - C. lions are shorter than zebras, so lions can't see zebras in grass.
 - D. lions are colorblind, and they can't see the stripes of zebras in tall grass.
2. How do stripes help an individual zebra hide from lions?

Changes for Seasons

Many animals stay safe from their enemies by blending into their surroundings.

Animals with brown fur or feathers can blend into the forest in spring and summer.

However, when snow covers the ground in winter, brown-colored animals can be seen easily by their enemies.

Some animals that live in surroundings that change color grow different fur or feathers at different times of the year. In spring and summer, the snowshoe hare has a dark coat that matches the brown ground of its surroundings. As winter draws near, the fur of the snowshoe hare turns white to match the snow. The snowshoe hare stays safer from its enemies by growing fur of different colors for different seasons.



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Review

1. How do many animals stay safe from their enemies?
 - A. by turning brown when they go into the forest
 - B. by hiding with snowshoe hares
 - C. by blending into their surroundings
 - D. by growing white fur in the spring and summer
2. How does the snowshoe hare stay safe from its enemies?

Sticking Out

Like land animals, marine animals have ways of protecting themselves from their enemies. Some marine animals use the water in which they live to protect themselves.

Members of the puffer fish family take in extra water when they are threatened by their enemies. This extra water makes them appear to be large and hard to eat.

One member of the puffer fish family, the porcupine fish, has long, sharp spines on its body and head. Usually, these spines lay flat against the fish. However, when the porcupine fish is threatened, it adds enough water to grow to twice its usual size—or more. The extra water also makes its spines stand out. The enemies of the porcupine fish swim away when they see a large ball with spikes instead of a fish.



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Review

1. Why do members of the puffer fish family take in water when they are threatened?
 - A. to make themselves swim more quickly
 - B. to make themselves appear large and hard to eat
 - C. to make themselves look like porcupine fish
 - D. to make themselves grow spines on their bodies
2. How do porcupine fish protect themselves from their enemies?

Changing Colors

Many animals have skin, fur, or scales with colors that match their surroundings.

By blending in with their surroundings, animals can protect themselves from their enemies.

One group of animals called chameleons can change from bright green to deep brown. Then chameleons can change back to green again. Different patterns on their skin, such as lines and bars, also can appear and disappear.

Some people think that chameleons change color to match their surroundings.

In fact, chameleons change color as a result of the temperature, amount of light, and dampness of their surroundings. When they sit in the bright sunlight, chameleons may be bright green. Under a pile of damp leaves, however, their skin turns dark brown. With the right conditions, chameleons can even be half brown and half green.



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Review

1. What three things make chameleons change color?
 - A. the colors of their skin, fur, or scales
 - B. the temperature, brightness, and other animals in their surroundings
 - C. the colors of the animals, plants, and trees nearby
 - D. the temperature, amount of light, and dampness of their surroundings
2. Why do some animals change color?

Blinking Lights

Below the ocean's surface, rays of sunlight make the water look sparkly and bright.

Fish that swim in this area can block out the sunlight and cast shadows in the water below them. When fish cast shadows, predators know exactly where to attack. Casting shadows puts fish at a disadvantage because the shadows make them easy prey for predators.

Many fish and other marine animals have ways to overcome this disadvantage.

Some marine animals, like lanternfish, have special parts just under their scales that light up. The lanternfish's lights are mostly on the underside of their body. Having lights on their underside keeps lanternfish safe from predators that swim below them. This is because lanternfish do not look like the predator's next meal. Instead, they look like the sparkly, bright rays of the sun shining on the water.



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Review

1. How can shadows put fish at a disadvantage?
 - A. Predators look for fish hiding in shadows.
 - B. Shadows make fish easy to see.
 - C. The lanternfish's lights make shadows in the water.
 - D. Shadows are hard to see in the bright sunlight.

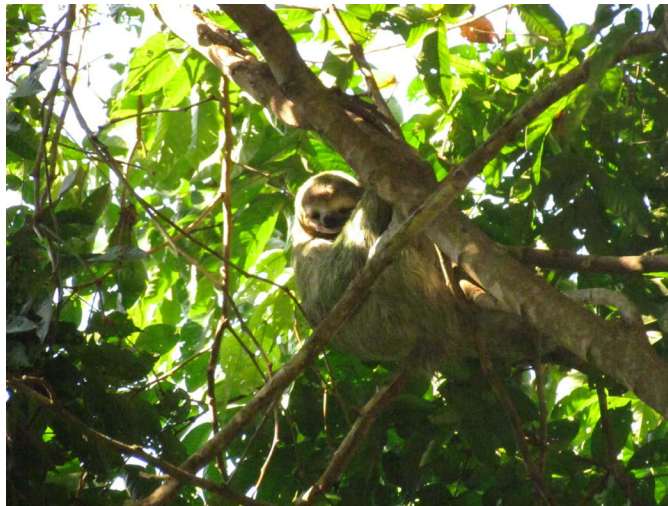
2. How do lanternfish stay safe from predators?

Staying Still

Animals that move slowly can be easy targets for predators. Sloths are among the world's slowest-moving animals. Sloths also spend most of the day asleep, when many predators hunt. Sleeping during the day and moving slowly seem to be disadvantages. However, sloths have ways to protect themselves against predators.

When sloths sleep, they hang upside down from tree branches. Sloths can be so motionless when they sleep, though, that predators can walk by without noticing them. Sloths are also protected by algae that grow on their fur. The algae make the sloth's gray or tan fur look like the leaves or moss that grow on the tree.

At night, when sloths hunt for food, their slow movement also keeps them safe. Sloths move so slowly that predators can't easily see them among the eaves in a tree.



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Review

1. Algae protect sloths by ____
 - A. giving sloths something to eat.
 - B. helping predators find sloths.
 - C. making sloths look like trees.
 - D. helping sloths move slowly.
2. Describe two ways sloths stay safe from predators.

Parent Guide for Supporting Reading

Parents, older siblings, and other adults can help a student become a strong reader in many ways. Here are a few ideas for supporting your child's developing reading skills. Several of the following options suggest that you talk about books or ideas with your child. These discussions can help your child think about the information and remember what he or she has learned.

Reading Connections

- Read to your child from a book, magazine, or newspaper at least three times per week. If possible, allow your child to choose the reading material, or take turns choosing what you will read.
- Take turns reading with your child. You might read one paragraph of a book that is easy for your child to read. Then, your child might read the next paragraph.
- Ask your child to read to you from a book that he or she enjoyed. After your child has read, talk about why your child enjoyed the book. For example: Was the plot exciting? Did the book tell about an animal or character your child liked?

Listening and Speaking Connections

- Watch a television program or video with your child. Then, talk about what you have seen.
- Invite your family members and friends to tell stories about things that have happened recently or in the past, or to create their own stories. Encourage your child to tell a story, too.
- Play word games like "I Spy" and other guessing games that encourage children to use their language and thinking skills.

Real-World Connections

- Point out examples of reading in the world around you by encouraging your child to read cereal boxes, street signs, billboards, listings of television programs, advertisements from newspapers or magazines, or any other printed objects.
- Visit Web sites designed for children or sit with your child while he or she searches for pages with suitable reading material. Talk about the words and the art on the pages.
- Visit various places, such as museums, zoos, and sporting arenas. Then, discuss the event with your child. Explore what your child found exciting and interesting, and what he or she did not understand.

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