

25 Scallops and Clams

Scallops and clams are both mollusks—shelled sea creatures with soft bodies. Yet they have more differences than similarities. Scallops and clams both feed by pulling water through their shells and straining out tiny plants and animals as their food. Both shellfish are popular prey for many other sea creatures. But when it comes to searching for safety, they have very different ways.

The scallop lies on the floor of the ocean in shallow to fairly deep water. Its curved shell raises it just above the sand or gravel on the bottom. It looks almost helpless lying there. But don't let it fool you. There is a ring of tiny eyes peering out from the scallop's shell. At the first sign of an enemy, the scallop takes off, swimming by jetting spurts of water out behind it. It's a very fast swimmer.

Any clam that dared to lie in full view on the ocean floor would quickly be eaten. Clams make a tasty meal for starfish, crabs, or carnivorous snails. They move very slowly and cannot swim at all. They find safety by burrowing deep into the mud or sand. Their long necks stretch like periscopes, up to the top of the sand. Just the tip of the neck pokes out to get food for the clam. If anything comes near, the neck can quickly be pulled back within the shell. The clam stays safe below the surface, two or three feet down.

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

Answer

Score

☒ M

15

☐ B

5

☐ N

5

a. Scallops and clams live on the ocean floor.

☐

b. Scallops and clams use different methods to defend themselves.

☐

c. Scallops and clams are good prey for many other ocean creatures.

☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage focuses on

- ☐ a. predators of clams and scallops.
- ☐ b. how scallops and clams protect themselves.
- ☐ c. the similarities between scallops and clams.
- ☐ d. how scallops and clams feed.

Supporting Details 3 Clams and scallops eat

- ☐ a. fish.
- ☐ b. crabs.
- ☐ c. tiny plants and animals.
- ☐ d. water.

Conclusion 4 Based on this passage, which statement is most likely to be true?

- ☐ a. Scallops are smarter than clams.
- ☐ b. A clam has no need for eyes.
- ☐ c. Scallops have longer necks than clams.
- ☐ d. Clams are more cowardly than scallops.

Clarifying Devices 5 The writer compares a clam's neck to

- ☐ a. a giraffe's neck.
- ☐ b. a skyscraper.
- ☐ c. a snorkel.
- ☐ d. a periscope.

Vocabulary in Context 6 Jetting means

- ☐ a. squirting.
- ☐ b. exploding.
- ☐ c. flying.
- ☐ d. leaving.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 216.

Total Score

26 Joker's Wild

Watch out for practical jokers. They'll do almost anything for a laugh. One such prankster was Moe Drabowsky. He was a baseball relief pitcher. Relief pitchers are standby players who replace the starting pitcher in a game if he is pitching badly. If the starting pitcher is throwing well, relief pitchers have nothing to do. They just sit around in the bullpen and hope the manager calls them to play.

Waiting around in the bullpen gave Moe lots of time to think up jokes. But his best joke was played after he retired from baseball. Moe was sitting at home watching his team play on television. It would have been a boring game for him had he still been on the team. The starting pitcher was doing great. He hadn't given up a single run. The relief pitchers wouldn't be likely to play in this game. The last thing they'd expect would be a call from the manager. The thought gave Moe a mischievous idea. He still remembered the bullpen phone number. Moe dialed it from his living room. A startled relief pitcher answered. Using a voice that sounded like the manager's, Moe growled, "Warm up and get ready to play." The star pitcher gaped at the man in the bullpen who was getting ready to pitch. Everyone stared at the manager in disbelief. The poor manager could only scratch his head. A thousand miles away, Moe Drabowsky sat in his living room watching the event on TV and laughing.

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

Answer

Score

M

15

B

5

N

5

- Moe Drabowsky played a great practical joke on his team after he retired from baseball.
- Moe Drabowsky could make his voice sound like the team manager's.
- Moe Drabowsky played a lot of practical jokes.

☐
☐
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage is concerned with

- ☐ a. a baseball game.
- ☐ b. a practical joke.
- ☐ c. advice on pitching.
- ☐ d. a TV show.

Supporting Details 3 The relief pitcher who answered the phone in the bullpen thought he was talking to

- ☐ a. the President.
- ☐ b. his manager.
- ☐ c. Moe.
- ☐ d. the phone company.

Conclusion 4 We can assume that Moe made the call

- ☐ a. because he was jealous of the successful pitchers.
- ☐ b. from a phone booth.
- ☐ c. long distance.
- ☐ d. during the winter.

Clarifying Devices

5 This passage

- ☐ a. makes fun of baseball players.
- ☐ b. tells you how to play practical jokes on people.
- ☐ c. teaches a lesson.
- ☐ d. tells an amusing story.

Vocabulary in Context

6 In this passage the word gaped means

- ☐ a. yelled.
- ☐ b. glanced.
- ☐ c. stared with open mouth.
- ☐ d. waved.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 216.

Total
Score

27 The Mysterious Iceman

Put yourself in these tourists' position. You are walking an icy mountain path in the Alps in Europe. Suddenly you spot a body on the ground, face downward and stuck to the ice. You think someone may have been murdered or in a fatal accident. So you rush back and call the police. The police, however, quickly realize that this body is different from others they've found on the mountain. For one thing, it is mostly undamaged. For another, its skin is dried out, like a mummy's. And with it is a knife with a small stone blade.

The body turned out to be much older than the tourists could have guessed. When specialists had a chance to examine it, they discovered it had been there for about five thousand years!

How could a body stay preserved for all this time? Two things probably helped. First, the place where the man died was somewhat sheltered, so animals couldn't get at it. Then he was quickly covered by falling snow. Wind blowing through the snow probably "freeze-dried" his body, removing all moisture from it.

Objects found with the body told something about the Iceman's life. He wore a well-made fur jacket and pants. He clearly had been hunting, for he carried arrows, and animal bones were nearby. He also had a braided grass mat for sitting or sleeping on. Perhaps he was exhausted when he lay down for the last time.

The body was found in 1991, when some of the ice on the mountain melted. Searching for the cause of the Iceman's death, scientists put the body back into cold conditions—and hoped.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	5

- a. The life and death of the Iceman is a puzzle for scientists.
- b. Bodies over five thousand years old are extremely rare.
- c. The body was very well preserved.

☐
☐
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 Another title for this passage might be

- ☐ a. The Amazing Find on the Mountain.
- ☐ b. What Life Was Like Five Thousand Years Ago.
- ☐ c. The Frightened Tourists.
- ☐ d. The Clothes of the Iceman.

Supporting Details 3 The man died in a location that was

- ☐ a. near the base of the mountain.
- ☐ b. sheltered.
- ☐ c. surrounded by open fields.
- ☐ d. cold and isolated.

Conclusion 4 The time of the year that the Iceman died was probably

- ☐ a. early fall.
- ☐ b. late spring.
- ☐ c. summer.
- ☐ d. winter.

Clarifying Devices 5 To explain why the police realized this body was "different," the passage gives

- ☐ a. the tourists' story.
- ☐ b. three reasons.
- ☐ c. a detailed description of the death site.
- ☐ d. a scientist's opinion.

Vocabulary in Context 6 In this passage the word spot means

- ☐ a. a tiny dot.
- ☐ b. an exact location.
- ☐ c. see.
- ☐ d. ignore.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 216.

Total
Score

28 They'll Eat Anything

You know that pearls grow inside oysters, but would you ever think to look for diamonds inside an ostrich? Well, a hunter once shot an ostrich and discovered, to his great surprise, that the big bird had swallowed a bunch of diamonds. How could such a strange thing happen?

Like many other birds, the ostrich swallows small stones that stay inside its "gizzard." The gizzard is a bird's second stomach. It is where the food is ground up. The small stones help to grind up the food so it can be digested. The small stones do the chewing, because birds don't have teeth. In the case of the ostrich with the diamonds, the bird simply had expensive taste in rocks. He used the diamonds to help digest his dinner.

Diamonds and stones aren't all that an ostrich will swallow. If there are no stones around, it will eat just about anything. Sadly for ostriches in zoos, this can be a fatal habit. The tendency to swallow anything it sees has caused the death of many an ostrich. Cruel or careless people often throw things into the bird's living space. They throw keys, coins, and even large objects such as horseshoes. The ostrich swallows them without hesitation. Coins can be the worst. Inside the ostrich they wear down to a razor-sharp edge. They will cut open the bird's gizzard from the inside. When one young zoo ostrich died, 484 coins weighing more than eight pounds were found in its gizzard.

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

Answer

Score

☒ M

15

☐ B

5

☐ N

5

a. Birds often eat strange things.

☐

—

b. Ostriches will swallow anything to help them digest food.

☐

—

c. One ostrich died with 484 coins in its gizzard.

☐

—

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage is about

- ☐ a. ostriches.
- ☐ b. diamonds.
- ☐ c. people at the zoo.
- ☐ d. rock hunting.

Supporting Details 3 Ostriches eat stones because they don't have

- ☐ a. enough food.
- ☐ b. bird seed.
- ☐ c. teeth.
- ☐ d. diamonds.

Conclusion 4 The ostrich is not smart enough to

- ☐ a. digest its own food.
- ☐ b. eat only diamonds.
- ☐ c. avoid eating objects that are harmful.
- ☐ d. escape from the zoo.

Clarifying Devices 5 The phrase "The small stones do the chewing" makes rocks seem as though they are

- ☐ a. important.
- ☐ b. alive.
- ☐ c. dangerous.
- ☐ d. uncomfortable.

Vocabulary in Context 6 Fatal is another word for

- ☐ a. foolish.
- ☐ b. careless.
- ☐ c. deadly.
- ☐ d. cruel.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 216.

Total
Score

29 No Laughing Matter

Never laugh at a snow-covered mountain! Laughter and yelling during the avalanche season can trigger a deadly pile of snow. Huge snow slides are most common in mountains where there are steep slopes that are well buried in snow and ice. The snow builds up slowly and lands very softly. This can create a very touchy, unstable situation. Tons of snow may be held up by only the friction between snowflakes. The deep snow is like a house of cards. The slightest movement can cause it to tumble. As soon as something slips, a great mass of snow will come crashing down the mountainside.

Slides may be started by sound vibrations. They may also be started by the weight of wet, melting snow. Once an avalanche has been triggered, the cause no longer matters. Moving down a steep slope, it picks up great speed and added snow. Some avalanches travel as fast as 200 miles per hour. The force of an avalanche will mow down anything in its path. Whole houses have been swallowed up by these fast-paced piles of snow.

The wind that is caused by an avalanche is almost as destructive as the snow itself. Winds from an avalanche have been known to travel as fast as those of a tornado. So, when approaching a thickly snow-covered mountain, speak softly!

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

Answer

Score

☒ M

15

☐ B

5

☐ N

5

a. Mountain areas can be very dangerous.

☐

b. Sound vibrations can trigger an avalanche.

☐

c. Avalanches, which are huge piles of tumbling snow, are very dangerous.

☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage is concerned with

☐ a. avalanches.

☐ b. bad snowstorms.

☐ c. mountains.

☐ d. laughter.

Supporting Details 3 Avalanches can be started by

☐ a. falling snow.

☐ b. the wind.

☐ c. loud sounds.

☐ d. friction between snowflakes.

Conclusion 4 We can conclude from this passage that avalanches

☐ a. are common everywhere.

☐ b. are not very common.

☐ c. have killed people.

☐ d. are a thing of the past.

Clarifying Devices 5 The writer compares an avalanche to

☐ a. a tornado.

☐ b. a falling house of cards.

☐ c. a snowstorm.

☐ d. a speeding train.

Vocabulary in Context 6 In this passage unstable means

☐ a. frightening.

☐ b. fast.

☐ c. shaky.

☐ d. undesirable.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here
and on the graph on page 216.

Total
Score