

## 66 Discovering the Kangaroo

It was 1770. James Cook captained a British ship. His mission was to sail to New Holland, the Dutch name for Australia. (Dutch explorers got there before the English.) Australia is the only continent entirely in the Southern Hemisphere. So it made sense for it to have unusual animals.

Captain Cook landed at Botany Bay. (This is just south of present day Sydney.) He built his base there. Then he explored the vast inland territory. Soon he saw a strange animal. He had read about it. A Dutch captain described the animal in this way. It is about seven feet tall. It weighs about 200 pounds. Its head is like that of a deer. The ears are rabbitlike. The hind legs are powerful. Captain Cook studied the animal. It did not walk. Instead, it hopped like a grasshopper. Its powerful legs could propel it over bushes seven feet high. When chased, it leapt in 35-foot bounds. It went as fast as 35 miles per hour. But its front legs were quite tiny. It used them as a squirrel would—as hands for eating.

Captain Cook was excited to spot this strange animal. Earlier he had picked up a guide, but the guide spoke no English. So Cook used sign language. He pointed at the animal. The guide said *Kan-ga-roo*. Captain Cook wrote the word in his notebook. Some years later, missionaries came to the South Pacific islands. They listened to the natives. They wrote the sounds in English. In this way they created a written language. Now the natives could read their own spoken language. In the written language, the native word *Kan-ga-roo*, according to the dictionary, means “I don’t know.” Nevertheless, the animal is still called a kangaroo. The name stuck. No change is planned.

### Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. Captain Cook was one of the first Europeans to see the kangaroo.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. During Captain Cook’s exploration he saw the kangaroo and named it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. <i>Kangaroo</i> is a native word that Captain Cook did not understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- |                              |          |   |       |
|------------------------------|----------|---|-------|
| <b>Subject Matter</b>        | <b>2</b> | This passage is about<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. discovering Australia.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. discovering the kangaroo.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. Captain Cook's travels.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. the native people's language.  | _____ |
| <b>Supporting Details</b>    | <b>3</b> | Australia was called New Holland because<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. it was named after an explorer.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. explorers thought they were in Holland.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. the Dutch discovered the continent first.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. it was a new land no one had seen. | _____ |
| <b>Conclusion</b>            | <b>4</b> | We may conclude that the kangaroo<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. is best known for its name.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. seemed unusual to Captain Cook.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. frightened the native people.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. was the largest animal the guide had ever seen.                   | _____ |
| <b>Clarifying Devices</b>    | <b>5</b> | The Dutch captain described the kangaroo by<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. explaining its daily habits.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. comparing it to other animals.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. drawing a picture of it.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. listing examples.  | _____ |
| <b>Vocabulary in Context</b> | <b>6</b> | <u>Vast</u> means<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. noisy.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. well populated.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. huge.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. tree-covered.  | _____ |

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213.

Total  
Score

## 67 Kangaroo Life

Here are some characteristics of kangaroos. The mother's pouch is shaped like a large pocket. There is where she feeds and cares for the babies. But the babies, called "joeys," are not born in the pocket. They are naturally outside it. When the babies are born, they are very tiny, only about an inch long. They must first cling to the mother's fur. Then they instinctively have to crawl up into the mother's pouch. No one helps, not even the mother. The babies must know to climb upward. They have to know there's safety in the pouch. Not only that, they have to know that that's the only way they can live. That is a lot to expect at the first minute of birth.

The babies remain in the pouch for weeks or sometimes even months. By that time, they get pretty heavy, yet the mother tolerates it. At birth there are often three kangaroos in the litter. But rarely does the mother raise more than one.

Animals in a group are referred to with special words. For cows, we say "a *herd* of cows." But what do we say for a group of kangaroos? We say "a *mob* of kangaroos."

Kangaroos live on the flat plains, where they eat grass and plants. Their teeth are very sharp. This makes it natural for them to clip the grasses close to the ground. Grass clipped so close rarely recovers; it dries up. This provokes the ranchers, as their grazing lands for cattle and sheep are often ruined. The result is that ranchers often shoot kangaroos as pests. There is, however, a use for kangaroo carcass. The flesh is considered a delicacy. The hides are used for shoes, gloves, and bags. Nevertheless, it is a shame to slaughter this timid animal.

### 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. Many people don't appreciate wild animals.
- b. The unusual kangaroo is often regarded as a pest.
- c. Kangaroos have unusual ways to care for their young.

☐
☐
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- |                          |   |  |       |
|--------------------------|---|--|-------|
| Subject Matter           | 2 | This passage is about<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. the Australian countryside.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. ranchers.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. baby kangaroos.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. how kangaroos are born, live, and die.         | _____ |
| Supporting<br>Details    | 3 | The baby kangaroo is born<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. outside the pouch.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. inside the pouch.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. in pockets called "joeys."<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. with little fur.                 | _____ |
| Conclusion               | 4 | We can assume from the passage that shooting kangaroos is<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. illegal.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. not often done.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. done only in restricted areas.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. allowed. | _____ |
| Clarifying<br>Devices    | 5 | The writer ends this story with a<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. new topic.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. personal opinion.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. fact.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. suggestion.   | _____ |
| Vocabulary<br>in Context | 6 | The word <u>timid</u> means<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. jumpy.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. sad.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. wild.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. shy.   | _____ |

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here  
and on the graph on page 213.

Total  
Score

## 68 The Honeybee

Honeybees are the only insects that make food eaten by man. These bees are social insects. They live and work in large groups. The group or colony may contain as many as 50,000 bees. A single bee may live only a few weeks. The colony, however, may go on living for many years. The queen herself may live as long as five years. After mating with only one drone, she can lay eggs for the rest of her life. She may lay up to a million eggs in her lifetime.

Bees fly into the fields to gather food and water. They store honey to eat in winter. A worker honeybee collects nectar all day. Yet in his lifetime the nectar he collects makes less than two ounces of honey. A colony, however, can gather 25 pounds of nectar in a day.

Worker honeybees suck up nectar. Their long tongues act like straws. The bee puts the nectar into an empty cell in the hive. When the cell is full, other bees put wax caps on the cells.

Wax is produced by special glands in a bee's abdomen. The wax comes out through pores and forms tiny white flakes. The bee moves the flakes up to its jaws. It chews the wax. When the texture is just right, the wax will become part of a cell.

Beekeeping is a highly developed art. Beekeepers tend about four million hives. They gather and sell over 200 million pounds of honey each year. They also gather and sell about four million pounds of wax. One of the uses of wax is in the making of lipsticks.

Bees are useful for many things. They pollinate flowers. They also pollinate blossoms of fruit trees. Many fruits and even vegetables would die out if bees did not pollinate the blossoms.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" 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. Honeybees work together.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Colonies of bees provide both honey and wax for people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Bees have a short life span.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- |                              |   |       |
|------------------------------|---|-------|
| <b>Subject Matter</b>        | <b>2</b> This passage is primarily about<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. beekeepers.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. wax and honey.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. how bees live and what they produce.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. why some insects live in colonies.   | _____ |
| <b>Supporting Details</b>    | <b>3</b> According to the author<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. beekeepers sell more honey than wax.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. the hive's cells are maintained by one bee.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. no bee lives more than a year.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. a farmer profits more from bees than a beekeeper.              | _____ |
| <b>Conclusion</b>            | <b>4</b> From reading the passage, it is clear that bees<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. get along better than humans.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. are more important to farmers' flowers than fruit trees.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. help fruits and vegetables grow.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. work harder than most insects. | _____ |
| <b>Clarifying Devices</b>    | <b>5</b> The purpose of the first sentence of this passage is to<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. get your attention.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. tell a story.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. remind you of an incident.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. make you upset.   | _____ |
| <b>Vocabulary in Context</b> | <b>6</b> In this passage <u>social</u> means<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. living in groups.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. friendly.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. talkative.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. large.  | _____ |

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213.

Total  
Score



## 69 An Unforgettable Tragedy

Here is an event that has lived in history. It is truly an unforgettable tragedy.

The event is the Fifth Crusade. This Crusade was better known as the Children's Crusade. It took place in 1212. This tragic crusade burned itself into the hearts, minds, memories, and imaginations of almost all the people in Europe. People felt bad about it for many years afterward. The reason for the long, lingering remorse might be this. Why did the parents let their children go? The Holy Land was a thousand miles away. It was held by hard-fighting Moslems. Did the parents not foresee life-and-death hardships? Did they think some magic carpet would whisk their children to the Holy Land?

This crusade was made up of young boys and girls. Many of the children were less than 12 years old. There were two armies. One was from France. The other was from Germany. None reached the Holy Land. Almost no children ever returned to their homes.

What happened to most of the children? Many died of hunger. Many died of cold weather. Fatigue took its toll. It is a long march to the Mediterranean Sea. Some did reach the sea. But it was stormy. Most children were drowned in overloaded ships. Some reached the shore of Africa. These were captured. Then they were sold as slaves.

Some people think that this great loss of children was woven into the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. (The piper led the children out of the town. They were never seen again.) Like the Piper, the Crusade had a powerful drawing power. But this Piper played a tune of death.

### Main Idea

1

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

- a. The death of young boys and girls is sad and unforgettable. ☐
- b. The Children's Crusade led to the tragic death of many children. ☐
- c. Many children in the Crusade were not even 12 years old. ☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter

2 This passage is mainly about

- ☐ a. the Fourth Crusade.
- ☐ b. the Piper's Crusade.
- ☐ c. crusades.
- ☐ d. the Fifth Crusade.

\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting  
Details

3 According to the passage, all of the following are true about the Crusade except that

- ☐ a. parents wanted their children to live in a new country.
- ☐ b. the armies were from France and Germany.
- ☐ c. the children did not reach the Holy Land.
- ☐ d. children drowned in crowded ships.

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion

4 It is clear from this passage that the author does not

- ☐ a. like the Pied Piper story.
- ☐ b. understand how parents could let their children leave.
- ☐ c. know what happened to the children in the Crusade.
- ☐ d. enjoy reading about history.

\_\_\_\_\_

Clarifying  
Devices

5 The writer uses the word "but" in the last paragraph to indicate

- ☐ a. a contradiction.
- ☐ b. an exception.
- ☐ c. an argument.
- ☐ d. a comparison.

\_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary  
in Context

6 Fatigue means

- ☐ a. distance.
- ☐ b. sadness.
- ☐ c. exhaustion.
- ☐ d. loneliness.

\_\_\_\_\_

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213.

Total  
Score

\_\_\_\_\_



## 70 Ancient Firefighting

Fire is both a friend and a foe. It is a friend when under control. It is a foe when out of control.

Long ago, people found that fire could be put out by throwing water on it. This worked well when people lived some distance apart. But when people moved into towns, their houses were usually side by side. This closeness created a problem. Now a burning house was a danger to all.

The problem was soon solved. If a fire broke out, people quickly formed a line. The line led from a pond or well to the house that was on fire. Buckets of water were passed along the line.

With the passing of time, another problem arose. The buildings became bigger. With bigger buildings, you had bigger flames. These flames flared out. Now the firefighters could not get close enough to the burning building to throw the water from the buckets on it. How did they solve this problem? Old records give us a glimpse.

This may sound surprising. Fire equipment goes back to the time of Christ. Caesar Augustus (63 B.C.—A.D. 14 ) formed the first fire department in Rome. Seven hundred firefighters lived in firehouses throughout the city. They used a wheeled chariot that squirted water on fires. This “water squirt” was a huge syringe. The bulb may have been as long as a man’s body. It was squeezed by means of a giant screw turned by a firefighter. Such squirts were also used when the Great Fire swept London in 1666. Hand syringes three feet long were also used. These squirts were held by two firefighters while a third worked the plunger.

It took the London fire to awaken people to the need for better equipment.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" 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

- Water squirts were used to fight the Great Fire in London in 1666.
- Methods for fighting fires have improved as the need arose.
- Fires in places where people live can be dangerous.

☐  
☐  
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter      2    This passage is mostly about
- ☐ a. firefighters.
  - ☐ b. Caesar Augustus.
  - ☐ c. the Great Fire of London.
  - ☐ d. the development of firefighting techniques.
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Supporting Details      3    Which of the following is **not** true?
- ☐ a. The water squirt was used only in Rome.
  - ☐ b. A water squirt is a huge syringe.
  - ☐ c. Caesar Augustus formed the first fire department in Rome.
  - ☐ d. Firefighting techniques developed before the time of Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Conclusion      4    From this passage you can conclude that during the time of Caesar Augustus
- ☐ a. people considered firefighting unimportant.
  - ☐ b. people wanted to prevent forest fires.
  - ☐ c. there were no fires in Rome.
  - ☐ d. many lives were saved from fire.
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Clarifying Devices      5    In the final paragraph the author uses which of the following methods?
- ☐ a. comparison
  - ☐ b. direct quote
  - ☐ c. personal opinion
  - ☐ d. argumentative statement
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Vocabulary in Context      6    As used in this passage a syringe is a
- ☐ a. water pail.
  - ☐ b. kind of vacuum cleaner.
  - ☐ c. a hose.
  - ☐ d. tube with a valve that can collect and shoot out liquids.
- \_\_\_\_\_

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213.

Total  
Score

\_\_\_\_\_